

Ch. 790/59
THE

S T O R Y

OF

DAVID DOUBTFUL;

OR, THE

REPROBATE REFORMED.

FROM THE

FOOL OF QUALITY.

ENLARGED AND IMPROVED.

There's a divinity that shapes our ends,
Rough-hew them how we will.

SHAKESPEAR.

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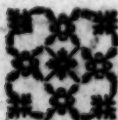


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The

DAVID,

OR THE

REPROBATE REFORMED.

I know not who my parents were. I was found, when an infant, wrapped in rags on a cobbler's bulk, in Westminster. The parish officers sent me to the poor-house; and, when I was capable of instruction, they sent me to the charity-school.

When I had learned to read and write, I was bound, for a servant, to Mr. Skinner, a neighbouring attorney. My mistress grew fond of me; she was a very pious woman; she taught me my prayers and

A catechism,

catechism, and made me read to her every night, and repeat chapters and psalms, till I had nearly got half the Bible by rote.

As my master used to send me on many errands and messages, and to entrust me with little matters of money on such occasions, on finding me always punctual and honest to him, he began to love me almost as much as my good mistress did.

But now came on my first falling away from all goodness. I was about twelve years old, when, in a cursed hour, my master sent me to a distant part of the town, with a bill to pay some money, and bring to him back the change. The change amounted to about four pounds in glittering silver. It appeared a mint of money. I never had been in possession of so large a heap; and I sighed, and said to myself, How blessed must they be who are become the rich owners of so much money! Then some one seemed to whisper me, that I

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was the owner; and again some one seemed to whisper me, that I was not the owner. Then I would go forward toward my master; and again I would stop and go aside. Then I would thrust my hand into my pocket, and feel the greatness of my treasure, then turn to the wall, and lay the brightness of it before my eyes. Then I would run a piece off, as hurried away by the force of the temptation; and again I would delay, and stop, and turn, and strive to force myself homeward. Till, what with doubting and delaying, and struggling off and on, and going backward and forward, I considered, that if I went home, I should now get nothing but blame and beating; and so I took a head, and ran into the country as fast as my feet could carry me.

And I ran myself out of breath, from time to time, I would look back and look back, and run on and run on, in the

thought that my master, or some one from him, was at my heels. But often since I have reflected, and was persuaded in my mind, that my kind master and mistress had not the least suspicion of me, but rather inquired and sorrowed after me, as being murdered or kidnapped from them; and this also was, at times, a great grief of heart to me.

When I was quite tired and jaded, and night came on, I turned up to a sorry kind of an inn, or rather alehouse, which I happened to be near. But, as I feared every thing, I had the cunning to conceal my treasure, and taking a penny from my pocket, I begged the woman of the house, for that and charity's sake to give me a little bread and milk, and some hole to lie in.

Having finished my supper, I was shewn to a kind of hovel under the stairs, where, throwing myself on some straw with a piece
of

of a blanket over me, I fell fast as a rock. Awakening however, about midnight, or somewhat after, and seeing all dark about me, and no creature near hand; I began to tremble greatly; and then I wished to say my prayers, but I did not dare to pray; and so I lay sweating and trembling, and trembling and sweating, till the dawning of the day brought some relief to my spirits.

Having breakfasted at the cost of a second penny, I set out, though not with my former speed; for reflecting that I had not my livery on, but a small frock coat, I was under the less fear of being known. However, I pushed on as well as I was able, wanting still to get as far from danger as possible. And indeed I hoped, by going on still farther and farther, to get away from my own fears and from my own conscience.

What misery did I not endure at that season? The trust I had in my treasure began now to abate, the dread of losing it also brought new troubles upon me; peace was banished from within me; and without there was no place whereto I might fly for rest.

On the fifth morning of my travels, having expended what halfpence and small silver I had; I took out half a crown, and offered it to the man of the house, desiring him to return what was over the reckoning. As he took it, he gave me a look that I thought went through me, and continuing to stare me in the face, he shamed me so, that I was constrained to turn aside. He gave me the change, however, and I set forward on my journey, all trembling, and apprehending I knew not what.

I had not gone above a mile, when, meeting a dirty road, I turned over a stile that led to a path through the fields. Here
I walked

I walked on a little way, when, turning, I saw my landlord making long strides after me; whereupon my heart beat, and my knees grew so weak under me, that I stood as still as a stone.

He came quickly up with me, and seizing me by the neck, he cast me on my back. Ha! you young rogue, says he, let us see what money you have got. Then, diving into my pockets, he pulled out the whole stock in which I trusted for happiness. O, you little dog of a villain, from whom have you stolen all this treasure? But I must go and return it to the right owner. O, good Sir, good Sir, I roared out, will you not leave me a little? ever so little, dear Sir, to keep me from starving? But he was deaf to my cries and prayers, and away he went.

Hope, the last comfort of the miserable, now forsook me. I cursed, at my heart, the day on which I was born; and I lay
a long

a long time, as one who had no use for limbs, or any farther way to travel upon earth. At length I broke out into shouts and a great gush of tears, and having got some ease by venting my sorrows, I rose, by a kind of instinct, and went on I knew not whither.

Growing hungry after noon, I would willingly have begged the charity of passengers; but this I did not dare to do, for fear they should ask me whence I came, and who I was, and whereto I was going; questions to which I could give no very honest answer. So I bore my hunger as well as I could, till coming at night to a hovel where a farmer kept his pigs, I made way for myself among them, and slept in the straw till morning.

The day following, as I passed slowly and half famished through a small village, my eye caught at a penny loaf that lay on a little shop window which jutted into
the

the street. I looked here and there, and peered into the shop, and was just going to seize the ready and tempting spoil; when something whispered at my heart, Do not touch it for your life, starve, starve rather than offer to steal any more; and so I tore myself away, and running as fast as I could, for fear of turning back, I at last got clear off from the reach of this temptation.

When I had travelled something farther, I got into an enclosed country, where there were hedges on every side, with plenty of haws and bramble-berries on every bush. And here I filled my belly with berries to serve me for dinner; and I stuffed my pockets with haws against I should want. Upon this I grew wonderful glad that I had not taken the loaf; and peace again began to come upon my mind; and, about night fall, having reached a copse on one side of the road, I crept like
a hare,

a hare, under the shelter of the bushes; I then supped upon my haws, after which I kneeled down, and half ventured at a prayer to God; and gathering up in my form, I slept happily till morning.

Having lived thus for some days, I came into an open country, where there was scarce any path, nor any haw or berry within many a mile. I now began to grow sick and faint with hunger; and again my sickness went off, and I became so greedy and ravenous, that I was ready to eat my own flesh from the bones. Soon after, I spied, at a distance, a confused heap of something at the root of a great tree that grew in the open fields. I made up to it in expectation of I knew not what; and found an old beggar-man fast asleep in his patched cloak, with a bundle of somewhat beside him.

Instantly I opened his little baggage, when to my inexpressible transport, a large
luncheon

luncheon of brown bread, with some halfpence, struck my eyes. I did not hesitate a moment about seizing the bread; for I could no more withstand the cravings of my appetite at the time, than I could withstand a torrent rushing down a hill. Having appeased my stomach, I began to demur about what I should do with the remainder of the bread, and felt a motion or two inclining me to leave it behind me. But “no, said I to myself; this is all the bread that I have, or may ever have during life, and I know not where to get a bit in the whole world; beside, I do this man no harm in taking it away, since I leave him money enough wherewith to buy more.” So I put the bread in my pocket, and went on my way, leaving behind me about four or five pence in the wrapper.

I had not gone far, however, before I said to myself again. “This man is a beg-

“gar by trade, and gets halfpence from
“every passenger that goes the road. But
“alas, no one living has any pity upon
“me; and so to starve alive, or take the
“money, is all the question.” So saying,
or so thinking, I went back on tiptoes, and
stooping and seizing my prey, I flew away
like lightning.

As soon as I had got out of the reach
and sight of the poor man, the first motion
I felt was the joy of having such a prize;
but I had not gone far till this joy was
much abated, my sighs began to heave,
and my tears to flow apace.

That night, I took up my lodging in a
waste hut that lay a little way off the road.
But though, as I thought, I had plenty of
bread, and money enough about me; yet
I found myself exceeding heavy, and I
was not able to pray, as I did the fore-
going nights.

During

During all this time, I neither knew where I was, nor whereto I was going, nor any thing more of my travels than that I came from London. When I had spent to my last penny, and was walking, slow and melancholy, on a by-path that led through some woody lawns, I heard the voice of merriment, and, quickly after, perceived a group of gypsies that came from behind some trees.

As I saw that I could not escape them, I gathered courage, and went forward, when, coming up, they stopped and eyed me with much attention, and made a ring about me. Where are you going, my child? says a man with a broad girdle and a very formidable beard. Indeed, Sir, said I, I cannot tell. And where did you come from then? From London, Sir, so please you. From London, Child? why, that is a very great way off. And pray what made you leave London? To get

B

away

away from my master. But I hope you did not come away empty, you brought something from him, did not you? Some little matter, good Sir, but I was robbed of it on the way. Hereupon, this venerable regent smiled, and turning to his dependents, As far as I see, said he, this chap will answer our purpose to a hair.

Here one of the females asked if I was hungry; and on my answer in the affirmative, they all invited me with a jovial air to dinner. We then turned a distance off from the path wherein we had met, and gradually descended into one of the pleasantest spots in the world. It was a dell surrounded with hills, some of which were slanting, some headlong and impending, and all covered or spotted with groups of trees, of different heights, sorts, and colours; through which there descended a gurgling rivulet, which, having rolled over stones and pebbles, grew silent in a small lake, that

that reflected the circling objects from the hills around.

Immediately nature's carpet was covered with a large cloth of fine damasked linen. The baggage was taken from the shoulders of the bearers; and before I well could observe what they were about, there was spread, as by art magic, before my eyes, the most various and sumptuous banquet I had ever beheld. Down instantly sunk the guests; some sitting, like the Turks, cross-legged; while others lolled, like the Romans, beside each other.

As they had travelled far that day, they all ate in silence; and, in a short space, the burden of the luggage-carriers was pretty much lightened. In the mean time, some arose, and unladed two asses of the creels which they carried. The cloth then was quickly emptied of the cold fowls and baked meats, with the loins of beef and mutton; and leather jacks, that contained

plenty of the best wines and other liquors, were set before us. These, again, were decanted into clean japanned pitchers ; and a japanned cup, of equal measure, was given into every hand.

Then began mirth and jollity to flow round with the cups ; never did I see so pleasant, so gleeful a company. Joke and banter, without offence, were bandied from every side ; and bursts of laughter were echoed from the answering hills.

As soon as I was warned, and my heart opened by what I drank, they all expressed a liking and kindness for me, and requested that I would tell them my story, without disguise. Accordingly I made an ingenious confession of all the matters related. But, instead of meeting those reproofs which I expected for my wickedness, they jointly began to ridicule my scruples, and put to shame the little shame that I had of my evil-deeds.

My

My child, said their ancient governor, when you have been a sufficient time with us, you will then learn what it is to be wise and to be happy. You will then know that religion is nothing but hypocrisy or fashion. There are thousands and ten thousands of religions upon earth, all contrary, and fighting the one against the other. People pretend to fear God, when it is the fear of the laws alone that is before their eyes. God is not to be feared, but to be loved, my son, for he is a very gracious and a bountiful God. He gave the heavens, in common, to the birds of the air. He gave the seas, and rivers also, in common to the fishes. And he gave this whole earth in common to mankind. But great people, and people of power, have seized it all to themselves, and they have made to themselves possessions and properties by fences and inclosures; and they have again inclosed these inclosures,

by laws of their own making, whereby the poor are to be punished, when they attempt to reclaim any part of the natural rights with which God had gifted them. But when the poor, without fear of the laws, can gain any thing from the rich and the mighty, who have robbed them of their rights, they may surely do it with a safe and an honest conscience. And now know, my child, that you are come among those who, of all people, can best defend you and make you happy. We are of that sort of the poor who are above the rich and the mighty, by being above the laws; for they can frame no laws which are of any more force to us than the web of a spider.

So spoke this formidable sage; and, indeed, however strange it may seem, I saw the latter part of his assertion fully verified by practice. I continued among this very singular and wonderful people, near
the

the space of three years ; during which time they initiated me into all the arts and mysteries of their manifold iniquities. No fetters could hold them ; no prisons could contain them ; no bolts or locks could secure the treasure of the wealthy from them. By the means of spells or certain odours, as it were by enchantment, all beasts became subject to them ; the wildest horse would stand for them ; the fiercest mastiffs did not dare to bay or growl at them ; so that all bleaching grounds, yards, and gardens, were as open to their invasion as the highway. They assumed all shapes, and almost all sizes. They became visible and invisible, known or unknown at pleasure ; for every different dress they had a different countenance and set of features ; so that their daily intimates could not know them, except by appointed words or tokens. And thus, without violence or apparent fraud, without bustle, indictment, or accusation on any side, they over-ruled
the

government, and held, as it were, the purses of the whole nation in their hands.

Though they never appeared by day, except single, or in small parties of ten or fifteen at most, yet they kept their state entire, by quick and constant intelligence. Beside, their prince, or principal potentate, who was the person that first accosted me, they had a deputy governor for every shire; and, at convenient distances, houses of common resort for the fraternity. Here their victuals were dressed and their provisions laid in; and here also were deposited the spoils of the public, which, when converted into money, was locked in a strong box, one tenth for the use of the society on any emergence, and the other nine for the benefit of the spoilers, in proportion to their respective ranks and merits.

Before we rose from our late mentioned festival, an ancient female fortune-teller chucked me under the chin, and said, Do
you

you know, my dear, where this same kind landlord lives, who robbed you of your money? All I know, said I, is, that he lives in a little town, at the sign of a white cross, and near to a great windmill. What, cried one of the men, my old host Jerry Gruff? He hates that any except himself should prosper by their ingenuity. I owe that fellow a fling, cried another, for once attempting to circumvent me in his own house. Well, my lad, says Geoffry, the old governor, his house lies directly in the way of our circuit; and, for your encouragement, I promise you that he shall refund you every penny of the money he took from you.

The luggage being now up, we went back on the field path by which I came; and coming to a great road, we divided into small parties, who were appointed to meet at the rendezvous, where we supped merrily, and slept soundly for that night.

We

We set out, the next morning, by dawn of day, and entering soon after upon a common, we saw a parcel of horses feeding without a keeper. Immediately three of the likeliest were taken from the rest. Out came scissars, and other implements, with phials of colouring essences, and to work went many hands, when, in less than five minutes, had the owners come up, they could not have found a single mark of their own property upon them. And indeed I have frequently known some of those my ingenious brotherhood, so very audacious as to sell, in public market, the cattle which they had stolen, to the very persons from whom they were taken.

As these people were never unprovided of their conveniencies, the horses were quickly bridled and dispatched, by several emissaries, several ways, to summon the neighbouring brotherhood, on the third night, to meet near the white cross with their appointed apparatus.

Accord-

Accordingly, on the evening of the night required, we arrived on a little hill that stood opposite to the house of my conscientious landlord; and, soon after, we were joined by several parties, from several sides, amounting to about a hundred and twenty persons, with parcels of I knew not what upon asses, &c. The packs were quickly opened, and from thence were produced black and flame-coloured gowns, flambeaux, hoofs, and horns, and vizards of horrid aspect and terrific dimension. In a hurry, we were all fitted with our respective dresses and characters. A large pasteboard coffin was covered with a white sheet, and exalted upon the shoulders of four fiery devils; and, as night began to fall dark and heavy upon us, a light was struck, the flams were lighted, one was put into every right hand; speaking-trumpets, with other instruments of heart-sinking sounds, were put to many a mouth, and

and we directly fet out on our diabolical proceſſion. Some roared like bulls, others howled and bayed like dogs at a midnight moon, while others yelled articulately in the caterwauling gibberish; in ſhort, the ſounds made ſuch a complication of horrors as no mortal ears could abide, nor mortal courage ſupport.

Mean while the town took the alarm, and began to be in commotion. Old and young quitted their houſes, and hurried hither and thither through the ſtreet. But as we advanced, they made backward; and running, or climbing, or ſcrambling up the hill, they gathered all in a body before the wind-mill. In the interim, we pushed forward, and entered the inn, where neither cat nor dog, nor living creature was left, ſave Goodman Gruff, who lay impotent of the gout, in an upper chamber.

While moſt of the company ſtaid routing and ſearching the houſe below, Signior
Geoffry

Geoffry led a few of us up stairs. He represented the person of Lucifer, whose name was impressed in flaming characters on his cap. On entering the room where landlord Gruff lay, Hark ye, Jerry, says Lucifer, you sneaking thief, you mean petty-larceny villain! how came you to rob a child, the other day, of the money which he gained under my influence and encouragement? I have a mind, you scoundrel, to strike you out of my list of innkeepers. O, my good Lord Lucifer, cries Gruff, with a trembling voice, in my conscience, now, I did not think that any kind of robbery would be an offence to your honour. You lie, you rascal, you lie, cries Lucifer, the devil is a gentleman, he loves those who rob the great, who have robbed the little; but he hates your low-spirited scoundrels who rob the widow and the fatherless, and take from the little ones the little that they have. Why,
C pray,

pray, my lord Lucifer, are you a Christian? cries Gruff. A better one, rascal, than you or any of your tribe; for though I tremble, yet I believe. And I tell thee, Jerry, that I will make this generation to tremble; but, as I think, the devil himself cannot bring them to believe.

During this confabulation, the whole house, drawers and all, was gutted as clean as a fowl for supper. So, without entering into any other habitation, away we marched, as in our former tremendous procession; till, coming to some standing water, we halted, and at a given word, we all together plunged our torches in the pool, and instant night fell upon all the world.

Thus, from day to day, and year to year, while I continued with this people, I was witness to a variety of sleights, deceits, impostures, metamorphoses, and depredations, without any instance of their being brought to condign punishment. One
of

of them, however, within my time, was detected, taken, imprifoned, brought to the bar, tried, and brought in guilty; and yet found means to evade justice by the moft marvellous piece of stratagem that ever was.

He was fpied in the act of ftealing a bay horfe. Fresh fuit was made. He was feized, and loaded with irons in the dungeon of the county-gaol. On the day of trial the fact was proved by incontestible witneffes; and the jury, without quitting the box, pronounced the fatal word *Guilty*. Have you any thing to fay, cried the judge, why fentence of death fhould not be pronounced againft you? I can truly affirm, exclaimed the culprit, that I am as clear as the light of this matter; that the beaft which I took, then was, and, to this hour, is my own property; and that there muft be fome wonderful miftake in this bufinefs; wherefore, my Lord, as I am

upon life and death, I trust that your charitable indulgence will order this same horse to be brought into court. The horse accordingly was brought, and the culprit continued; Now, my Lord, be pleased to order the witnesses to say whether this be the same horse that I stole or not? The same, the same, cried the witnesses, by virtue of our oaths. Be so good then, my Lord, to ask them of what age this horse was, at the time that I stole him? By virtue of the same oath, four years old, rising five. Now, my lord, if you will continue your gracious indulgence, be pleased to order his mouth to be examined by some people skilled in such matters. This also was done by two or three jockeys of acknowledged judgment, who instantly cried out, Why, my Lord, this horse is quite passed mark of mouth.

Hereupon every person that was present looked astonished, and silence was in
court

court for some minutes; till the culprit resumed. There is but one request more with which I shall trouble your Lordship, it is, that you would be pleased to send and examine whether this same horse be a horse or mare. This lastly, was done, when the examiners cried out, A mare, my Lord, a mare, without any question!

Here the surprise and amazement of the court was redoubled. The jury looked down abashed; the witnesses slunk away in utter shame and confusion; and his Lordship instantly ordered, that the prisoner should be dismissed without fees, and that the mare should be restored to him as his proper goods.

Now, the whole mystery of the affair was merely this, that some of the fraternity, the very night before the trial, had picked the lock of the stable, and in the place of the horse had substituted this mare, which they found or formed to so perfect a

resemblance of him, that no eye could discern the smallest distinction.

During my sojourn with these wretches, I found by dear experience, that between the birth and the grave, there are but two sorts of happiness of which man is capable. The one is, that of a "conscience void of giving offence;" the other is, that of a "conscience that cannot be offended." I was therefore perpetually miserable, because neither the one nor the other was my state: for, on the one hand, I was conscious that I gave daily offence to God and man; and, on the other hand, my conscience was daily offended thereby. I was merry, indeed, though not happy, when in company, but ever dejected when left alone; so that during my three years incorporation with this fraternity, I never once lifted my heart in any appeal to God, nor ventured to petition for any kind of favour from him.

Though

Though these reprobates, as I have intimated, continued to perpetrate, and to glory, with a merry and satisfied conscience, in their daily iniquities; yet hitherto they had not proceeded to blood.

On the night wherein I left them, we were overtaken, and cut short of our intended rest, by a sudden and violent tempest of wind and hail, whereupon we took shelter in a waste barn.

When we had struck a light, we set together what straw and combustibles we could find in the house, and had just kindled a fire, when one of the company came and whispered that there was a man asleep in the far corner. Hereupon they took the candle, and with soft and cautious steps, found a pedlar stretched along, with his head on a wisp of straw, and his box close beside him. They immediately lifted the box, and brought it away, in silence, to the place where I was sitting. On opening it,

it, with as little noise as possible, they found therein a large quantity of silks, linens, and laces, with a rich variety of hardwares, and at the bottom, a little padlocked chest, full of English and Spanish pieces of gold; in all likelihood the whole amount of the labours of his life.

This was a prize not to be thrown down the stream. Immediately all was in a kind of underbreathing bustle, and whispering commotion. The great question was, how to possess^s themselves of such a prey with safety to their persons. It was objected, that the man might waken, they were unluckily seen coming that way, and, it may be, entering into that house; the country might be alarmed, and rise upon them; they might be overtaken; they might be seized in the very fact.

At length a bold villain proposed directly to cut his throat, and that then there could be no witness to testify against them; but

to

to this it was again objected, that the blood itself would be the fearfullest and surest of all witnesses. Whereupon another proposed to suffocate or strangle him, and bury his corpse on the spot; to which scheme, though many were silent, yet no one expressly excepted.

During this deadly consultation, notwithstanding my long course of evil habit, and evil example, my blood curdled throughout my body, and fear, horror, and detestation arose in my bosom. But when they went, as I supposed, to put the deed of death into instant execution, I crouched and shrunk inward; and creeping out at the door, the dread of being also seized and murdered, gave me strength to get on my feet; and feeling along by the wall, I got away from the house, and made off I neither knew nor cared whither.

The tempest still continued; the driving of the clouds added to the natural horrors

horrors of night; I could scarcely discern that I had a road under my foot. But though I could not see my pursuers, I yet feared that their eyes were better than mine; and I still turned and listened, to try if the foot of the murderer was behind me.

Having travelled all night as fast and far as I could from the scene of my terrors, on the rising of the day I saw a large town before me, and, for the first time of three years, I lifted up my eyes, and inwardly blessed God for his mercy in my escape from so great a wickedness. Thereupon I felt a pleasure that I had never felt before; and I said in my heart, If you will once more be my God, I will be your true servant, and will never offend or transgress any more.

I then walked on leisurely; my fatigue went from me, and I seemed quite light-some to myself. On entering the suburbs, I met a gentleman taking his morning's
walk

walk out of town. I stopped and looked him wistfully in the face, whereupon he also stopped, and eyed me with much attention. Who are you, my pretty lad? says he. An unhappy stranger, Sir, who wants a service, or any means of earning a little honest bread. And pray what service can you do? Not much, Sir, I fear, but my good-will shall strive hard to make up my lack of ability. Then, cried he, you shall be my servant. All the servants I ever had, promised every thing, but did little: I will now try what may be done by one who promises nothing. What is your name, my boy? David Doubtful, Sir! for that was my true name, though I had gone by several others. And what wages must I give you, David? Just as much, Sir, or as little as you shall please to think I deserve.

Here he took me to a handsome house, where he kept a mercer's shop in Plymouth.

mouth. His name was Felton; he had been a widower for some years, and had an only son, who was then at Westminster-School, in London.

My master, at first, set me to the most servile and vile offices, such as cleaning his and the servants shoes; sweeping the street before his door, and carrying out the dirt of the house; but all this I did with willingness, and even with pleasure, as some little matter of penance for my long course of evil deeds.

On my separating from my brethren in iniquity, as I have told you, I was the proprietor of one hundred and seventy odd pounds, which was locked up in the common chest, being my allotted dividend of the fruits of our knavery, for three successive years; but in my present turn of mind, I would no more have accepted any part thereof, than I would have taken a bar of red hot iron into my hand. I had
also

also in my pocket, a few crowns with some smaller silver; but these I secretly distributed among the poor, that no part, as it were, of Achan's accursed thing might remain about me.

In about three weeks, my master again changed the whole manner of my service, and set me to brush his cloaths, dress his wigs, whet his knives, lay the cloth, and attend at table; but these were matters in which I was quite expert, as I had not yet forgotten my employment with my first master.

In some time after, Mr. Felton asked me if I could read? A little in the Bible, Sir, said I. And can you write too, David? If you please I will try, Sir. Why, David! this beats the hand of my clerk; where in the world did you come by all this learning! From a very good master to a very bad servant. But pray, Sir, do not enquire the particulars of my naughtiness

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ness

ness; for, indeed, you could not desire a severer monitor than my own conscience is to me. Well, my child, said the good man, I will not put you to pain; and, so giving me a squeeze by the hand, he went out with a glistening eye.

From this time my master shewed an uncommon respect and attention to me. He discharged me from all the menial offices of his household; he gave me his burdens of silks and other wares to carry to his several customers; and he desired me to take particular notice of the patures and values of what I carried.

On this encouragement, I became vastly more apprehensive and assiduous than he looked for. I attended the shop closely, and took notice and private notes of all that was estimated or transacted therein. My master looked quite amazed, on asking me some questions with respect to his affairs. His eldest apprentice, soon after,
set

set up for himself. He then placed me behind the counter, over his younger apprentice, and in joint authority with his journeyman; and, soon after, he gave me the key of his till, and the trust of all his treasure. I now dined with him at the same table, and consulted and conversed with him as his friend and companion. He frequently gave me pocket-money, which, he told me, he would not charge to the account of my wages. I walked with him every evening, went to church with him every Sunday, and read to him in the Bible every night. I was now wholly reconciled to my God, and felt him in my soul as a friend and benefactor. Pleasure played about my heart, peace lay under my pillow; and my happiness seemed as a ship that, after a long and desperate voyage, had anchored in a calm and secure haven.

I had now been something upwards of a year in the service of Mr. Felton, when one day I heard a bustling noise in the street, and saw people running hither and thither across the window. I stepped to the door, and looked to the left, saw a great crowd about a cart, wherein were five criminals going to execution. I staid till they came just opposite to me, when, to my utter astonishment and terror, I saw five of my old acquaintance, and, in the front of them, the bloody villain who had proposed cutting the throat of the unfortunate pedlar. Instantly I turned all pale as my shirt, and dreading that they would know and claim acquaintance with me, I shrunk in, and running backward, threw myself half fainting into a chair.

I now reflected, that it was happy for me no one was in the shop to take notice of my confusion; and endeavouring to assume some courage, on the entrance of
our

our journeyman, I put on the most unconcerned appearance that I could.

Mr. Felton happened to dine abroad that day, and did not return till the cloth was laid for supper. He took his chair at table, and desired me to sit beside him. David, said he, is it not wonderful that people should continue so incredulous, notwithstanding the frequent and daily proofs of an all seeing, and an all detecting Providence? If a sparrow falls not to the ground without the notice of God, how much more will he take account of the life of him whom he formed in his own image? The villain trusts to hide his villainy, and dares to affirm (with the first murderer) in the face of God and of man, "I know not where is my brother." But blood has a voice, a crying voice, David; it cries aloud to heaven, from the very bowels of the earth. No depth can cover it, no darkness can conceal it, for the light

that shineth in darkness will bring it forth to the day.

About twelve months ago, a pedlar was murdered in a waste house, called Fielding's barn. The murderers were of the people whom they call *Gypsies*, the most subtle and evasive of all sorts of reprobates, so that the fact lay a long time in silence. This pedlar, it seems, had an only brother, to whom the reversion of his substance belonged; and his brother not seeing or hearing from him of a long time, went through the whole country, and through many parts of the kingdom, inquiring after him. At length he arrived, one evening, at an inn, some miles from hence, where he found in the kitchen, seven men jovially seated over a bowl of punch; he quickly accepted their invitation, and having spent the time pleasantly, and the house being thronged, he, and one of the company, were shewn to the same bed.

About

About midnight, his companion began to moan most piteously, when, jogging and asking him why he groaned? O, Fielding's barn! he cried, Fielding's barn! Again, he cried, You cannot say it; you cannot say that my hand was in the murder. Again, he would mutter, with a half-smothered voice, See, see, how, how he struggles, see how he kicks; put, put him out of pain, O put him out of pain.

Hereupon the brother rose, and dressed as quietly as possible; and making away to the next magistrate, he returned, seized, and carried off his bed-fellow, before any of his comrades were apprised of the matter.

What have you done you villain? said the magistrate, without preface; what have you done with the body of the pedlar whom you murdered in Fielding's barn? On this question, the wretch, thinking that all was detected, instantly fell on his knees. I had neither hand nor heart in the murder,

der, Sir, he cried; and if you will get me a pardon, I will faithfully tell you the whole affair. On his confession, the five principal rogues were taken before they were out of bed. And on his evidence, and that of their seventh companion, they were sentenced, and this day executed, and are to be gibbeted in the morning.

During this narration, I could not refrain from expressing, by my countenance and gesture, the strong compunction I felt on recollecting my long association with those reprobates; but my good master, as I suppose, ascribed my emotions merely to the detestation which I had of their deeds.

I had been close upon two years in the service of Mr. Felton, and he had lately agreed with me at 25*l.* yearly, whereof he paid me the last year's wages in hand; when one evening as I stood behind the counter, a young woman came in, and desired to see such and such goods. While
she

she was cheapening on the one hand, and I setting forth the extraordinary value on the other, several intelligent glances were exchanged between us. Whenever her eyes met mine, she instantly cast them down with a blushing modesty; and yet whenever I looked at her, I saw that her eyes had been fixed upon me. At length having bought some little matters, she made me a bashful courtesy, and going out at the door, she turned upon me with a significant glance, and departed.

All that night I felt myself as I had never felt before; I turned and turned again from the image of this girl, and yet she seemed to stand before me, and to look upon me, as she had done the day before.

For five tedious days she withheld herself from my sight, and I feared that I should never behold her any more. At length she came, and I strove in vain to conceal

conceal my joy on her appearance. After cheapening and paying for some little matters, she cast her eye on a piece of silk, which, she said, she fancied greatly, but feared that her pocket would not reach so far. O Miss! said I, we shall not quarrel for such a matter, provided I know where to call for the money. On Sarah Simper, Sir, said she, at such a sign, in such a row.

As I had three or four spare hours from business every evening, I gladly laid hold of the occasion I had gotten for spending that time in visits to my beloved. I went indeed, without forming any purpose or intention, save the pleasure of seeing her: but I soon found that she had more art than innocence; for the latter was only the bait that she made use of to gain upon my affections; by which, she, alas too fatally succeeded, and plunged me into expence, that made me betray my trust, and

and appropriate the property of my kind and indulgent master, to gratify her extravagance; and, horrid to relate, when she thought that she had me completely in her power, she threatened to discover my villainy and dishonesty to him; because, I refused to give him poison. Every beauty that had enchanted me, vanished from my sight, at this proposal, and she now appeared so hedious in my eyes, that I rushed from her presence.

When I got into the street, I hastened homeward, without deliberating a moment on what I was about, or on the consequences that might ensue. My master was in a back chamber, looking over some letters, when I rushed in precipitately, and shut the door behind me. What is the matter, child, said he; are you not well? You look pale and affrighted; what is the matter, David? O Sir! O Sir! and I sunk upon my knees, I bring to you a villain, a reprobate,

a reprobate, a thief, a robber, a betrayer of trusts, also the vilest sinner that ever sinned against God and against man. I got in league with a bad woman who seduced me by her beauty, and then prevailed upon me to defraud and rob you, and would have persuaded me to murder you; but there I stopt short: I could not be prevailed upon to murder you, my master! Pray then, said he somewhat sternly, to what intent are you come? To demand justice, Sir? I cried, and to appease my own conscience by suffering for my faults. Tell me then, said he mildly, and tell me truly, of how much money have you defrauded me? Of fifty pounds, Sir! I answered, a few shillings under or over. Rise then, pray rise, my David! he cried; I would not bring you to shame, and much less to punishment, for five times the value of fifty pounds. I owe you, for your services, very nearly that sum, and I forgive
you

you the remainder with all my heart. No, Sir! I cried aloud, and burst into tears, you do not forgive me, you cannot forgive me, for this your goodness does but heap the heavier guilt upon my soul.

He then got up and came to me, and raising me to his bosom, he embraced me, and cried, I rejoice over thee, my David, I rejoice over thee, my child, as Heaven rejoiceth over the one sinner that repenteth, more than over the ninety and nine that have no need of repentance. You now know your own frailties; you are sensible of your lapses; you will be cautious of future falls; and you stand upon firmer ground than ever.

You know me not, I exclaimed! You know me not, my good master. I am wholly irreclaimable. The devil has taken possession of me, and reigns through all my members. I find it quite in vain to strive or struggle against him. I have no more
E strength

strength than a midge against temptation; no more power than a weak and fainting man against a torrent that already has borne him far away.

I will pray for you, my son, said the good man vehemently! I will wrestle with my God for you! and his grace shall be sufficient. No, Sir, I replied, after that which has happened, I never shall be able to look you in the face, I will not trust myself. I know that I should fall on the first trial. Will you leave me then, he cried, will you leave me, my son David? and he took out his handkerchief, and wiped away the falling tear. I must, I answered, I must leave you, my dearest master, I should be miserable if I stopped. I will go directly to sea, I will confine myself in some ship, where I shall be shut from any commerce or communication with mankind, and not have it in my reach to wrong or damage any person.

And,

And, indeed, I could not bear to stay in one town, or even one kingdom, with that bad woman. Where may she be found, David? said Mr. Felton, Ah! Sir! I exclaimed, leave her to God, and to her own evil conscience, I beseech you. I believe she is with child by me. Do not desire, my master, to hurt a little innocent, that has not yet seen the light! No, my David, no; I mean nothing but comfort to her. I mean to supply her wants, and to soften her distresses. She will not then be tempted to wish hurt to her benefactor, and I will take care of the little wretch which she carries in her body, for your sake, my David.

There was something so affecting, in such a proof of wonderful goodness, as must have struck to the heart of the most abandoned reprobate. I was quite overcome thereby. I fell suddenly at his feet, and I wished to pour out my very soul, in the

same manner as I poured my tears upon them.

As he now found that I was bent and determined on departing, David, says he, since you will go, you must not go unprovided. A sailor ought to have proper necessaries ; and, if you will give me your company for three or four days longer, I will get you a good birth in some ship or other. Mean time I would advise you to set about your preparations ; for which purpose you must accept these fifty guineas, which you may please to return me, when some happy adventure shall furnish you with means. No, no, Sir, I cried, putting his purse back with my hand, your plan is not the plan of your reprobate servant ; your good births are not at all for my purpose. I will go as a common sailor ; the meanest offices and the greatest drudgery will be a penance too little, much too little, for my transgressions.

And,

And, so saying, I turned and went hastily out.

I made directly to the quay, where I saw a crowd of citizens intermixed with sailors. On going up, I found that they were enlisting volunteers, to whom they offered from one to three guineas per man. And what will you give me, Captain, if I go with you? He then looked earnestly at me, and, having eyed me several times, from head to foot, I will give you, my lad, said he, five guineas in your fist, and here is my hand for a hearty welcome into the bargain. If your Honour then will be pleased to order those five pieces to be laid out for me in such necessaries as you think fitting; I live at such a place, and shall be ready at a call. Enough, said the Captain, our ship is called the Centurion, of thirty guns, the brave David Jenkins commander. We set out by morning's tide, between ten and eleven; and if you come

without a call, you will be the more welcome. So saying, he gave me a familiar shake by the hand, and we parted.

I then went directly home, and, calling Mr. Felton aside, I told him of my success and engagement in the Centurion, suppressing only the time of my early departure; for I felt that I could not stand the parting with him, and I thought it best to make it as little painful to him and myself, as might be.

During supper, I endeavoured to chat, but I could not. And as Mr. Felton, at times, looked affectionately upon me, I turned my head aside, and a silent tear stole down my cheek.

I spent the night in sighs and tears, and, getting up before day, I took my shoes in my hand, and stepping softly down stairs, would have stolen out at the street-door; but, in that instant, the door of a side-parlour was opened, and, before I could look
about

about, my master had me in his arms. Will you leave me, then, David; will you indeed leave me? he cried. O, David, David, I love you next to my only child. Stay with me yet, my son, O, stay with me, my David, and I will do every thing, I will do all things that may be done for you.

Here I sunk, and was just fainting, under the pressure of his goodness. Do not kill me, my master, do not kill me outright, I cried. So saying, I broke from him, and away I rushed; weeping and sobbing all the way, as though my heart would cleave asunder.

The captain received me with great cordiality, and at times called me his namesake, and was very familiar with me. The sailors also, after his example, began to affect me without any appearance of envy; for though I had not been exercised in their profession, yet I was strong, hale,

hale, and active, and ready to assist them at every turn,

In the mean time, it may appear very extraordinary, though I felt daily compunction, and nightly wept many tears for having offended God throughout the course of my life; yet I neither prayed to him, nor besought pardon from him, nor applied to him for any kind of support or assistance.

I was now incorporated with a fraternity whose wickedness was of a species quite different from that of my former brotherhood. Our sailors were so far from cheating and defrauding, that they scarce seemed to have any regard for property; and they were as brave a set of fellows as ever trode a deck. But then they were as hardened to any sense of religion or piety as the nether mill-stone; and the sacred name of God was of no other import to them than as the balls of a billiard-table, to be tossed and bandied about for sport.

At

At first this was a matter of great offence and horror to me. Can there be a God, I would say to myself, and can he suffer his name to be insulted and blasphemed as it is by these wretches? But, alas! I was not as one of the three captives at Babylon; I could not be cast into the furnace, and come forth without a singe. In time this profaneness became less irksome to my ears, and, by degrees, I began to relish, and to catch the common contagion.

Our ship had been destined to protect the trade in the Levant. Within the space of five months, we had rescued from the captors six English ships, and made prize of three stout frigates, of those African pirates who war upon the world; when the boy from the mast-head cried out, A sail! We immediately made chace, and found by evening that we had gained considerably upon her; but as the night came on

on thick and hazy, we shortened sail, and lay to till morning, but hung out no lights.

At dawn of day, we renewed the chase, though no sail was then in sight; but we had not continued it above four or five leagues, when we clearly discerned the same vessel, and perceived that she altered her course, and was bearing down toward us.

Hereupon we shortened sail, and waited for her. But we had not waited long, till we perceived a second vessel that seemed in chase of the first; and some time after saw a third that seemed in chase of the two former.

On this the lieutenant, an old and experienced sailor, looked somewhat blank, and desired that the captain would instantly call a council of war. Gentlemen, says he, the many captures we have lately made could not fail of informing our enemies

mies that we are in these seas: and I apprehend, with great reason, that they have made choice of their best means to over-reach and over-match us, and to fall with their united force upon us. And indeed ye may already perceive, that the ship which we had in chace has shortened sail, and waits to be joined by her two consorts, whom she seemed so lately to fear. I think, as the jockeys say, that we have more than foot for them; and all the question is, whether Old England shall make use of her fleet to fly, while she has any hands left wherewith she may fight? At this they cried, with one voice, No flying! no flying! let them come on, the circumcised dogs, as many as may be of them; we will neither take nor give quarter, they or we must to the bottom! To work then, my brave lads! cries Captain Jenkins, for we are likely to have as warm a bout of it as we could wish.

To bustle went all hands. We had a clear ship in a moment; and, for the first time, stowed our hammocks in the nettings. The captain then choosing a dozen of the best marksmen, he disposed them in the tops, with strict orders to direct their fire only at those who appeared to be officers.

Our ship at this time was full manned with about two hundred and seventy spirits, all as ready and desirous to go and meet death as a beau to go to a ball, or an alderman to a feast.

The three comforts were now joined, as our mate had foreseen, and bore down upon us right before the wind; and then it was that my sins came crowding into my mind, and I believe I was the only person in the ship's company who trembled.

They all came up with a desperate boldness; and while one attacked us on our bow, a second lay upon our quarter, while the

the third bore away under our stern, and raked us fore and aft with her whole broadside; nor were we idle in the mean time, but plied our guns with such spirit and success as soon obliged them to sheer off.

Our ship was of English oak, and stood their shot to a wonder; our metal was also much weightier than their's; but then they outnumbered us three to one, in men and in guns.

Having got out of the reach of our shot, they moved off, as intending to make their escape; but, having repaired their damage, as well as time would allow, they returned upon us with two fold resolution and fury.

Then it was, that such a scene was opened, as was sufficient to strike hell itself with horror.

They now entertained us with a new kind of warfare. For getting up within pistol shot, they tossed their granadoes or hand shells among us, that were filled

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with

with broken bottles, and with rusty and ragged pieces of old iron. These did fearful execution, and our deck was quickly covered with blood and brains, and pieces of human flesh, while the noise of the cannon could scarcely drown the screams of the wounded, and the groans of the dying.

In this desperate situation we loaded all our guns with grape-shot, which made such havock among our enemies as obliged two of them to sheer away again as fast as they could, while the third kept playing upon us at a distance, till we forced her also to follow her consorts.

We now had leisure to clear our deck, and, with sorrowful hearts, threw our dead companions overboard.

Having once more set all to rights, we bore down on all the three; but they crowded away from us, maintaining a running fight with their stern chace; and as
they

they levelled their shot almost wholly at our rigging, by evening we were incapable of further pursuit.

Mean while we had plied them with our cannon so well, that, as it began to wax duskish; we perceived the crew of the hindmost in much confusion, and making signals of distress to their consorts. Soon after we saw them heave out their boat, and they had scarce crowded into her when their ship went down. Hereon we gave a great shout, which we repeated on seeing their boat overset. But, as the Moors are excellent swimmers, I suppose most of them got safe, and were taken in by their companions. In the mean space our most gallant Captain Jenkins had his right leg and thigh carried off by a cannon-shot; I think it was the last shot the enemy fired.

As I stood by my captain's side, I caught him in my arms before he fell to the board, and cried out for the surgeons;

but the effusion of blood was so great, and so impossible to be staunched, that we quickly despaired of any life for him.

As I supported him on deck with my right arm, he found himself growing faint, and turned his face to me. David, said he, I am not afraid to die, for I am a Christian. I believe, as surely as I am here, that Christ came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief; and he is so great and so gracious, that he will not suffer hell or the grave to disappoint him of an end for which he paid so dear a price. Here, my David, here is my purse and my watch, which I bequeath to your love as my last legacy; and here is my diamond ring with which I entrust you, as a token to my dear daughter, if ever it should be your fortune to visit old England. And if you should go to London, my dear David, inquire out my good old friend, Alderman Bicker; tell him of my
behaviour

behaviour during your service with me, and that I beseech him to use his interest with our Protector, in procuring my pay for my poor sweet child.

Though we greatly grieved for our captain, we were still more concerned for the honour of England, lest our good ship should fall into the hands of the barbarians. For she now lay like a hulk on the face of the water. She could neither pursue nor avoid an enemy; and, though she had been in plight, we had not hands left sufficient to work her.

Night came on apace, hostilities ceased on both sides; the pirates hung out lights, to prevent, as we supposed, their parting from each other; and we mournfully called a muster of our men, in the dark; whereon we found that, of two hundred and seventy odd men, we had but fifty remaining, twenty of whom were wounded, though not disabled.

Come, my lads, cried the old Lieutenant, it is as good to be merry as sad. We have worked enough to day to give us an appetite. Let us have something to eat, and a bowl of punch; and, if we die by morning, let us not die with cold hearts, and empty stomachs. Moreover, for your encouragement, I take upon me to promise, that, if you will be guided, I will make you masters of one of yonder vessels before sun rise.

We engaged compliance to a tittle; and accordingly, after we had refreshed ourselves plentifully, he ordered our boats to be heaved overboard, and let drive with the wind. We then set our watch, and went down to take a few hours repose.

Two hours before day we were roused by the Lieutenant, and the first thing we did was to bore a large hole in the side of our ship about a foot below water, for which

which we had an occasional plug prepared.

As soon as the day dawned, we set watches to give us timely notice of the enemies approach ; and then lay down on our small arms out of observation.

The pirates, as we presumed, held up their glasses : but, seeing neither men nor boats in our ship, they concluded, that we had made an elopement by night, and came on without precaution or preparation.

As soon as they had arrived within about half a league, our watchmen, according to order, drew forth the plug, and, creeping upon deck, crouched down with us.

The comforts had agreed to board our ship on each side, in confidence of a rich and unresisting prize. But the moment that we heard the first of them rustling along-side, and perceived that they were beginning to get up our side, we jumped
up,

up, as one man, and setting up a great shout, and overturning all we met, leaped into their vessel,

Never was amazement like that of the enemy! They scarce made any resistance, and, in less than a minute, not a Moor was left upon deck.

Mean time the other pirate had boarded our late vessel, almost to a man. They had heard, indeed, the shout, with the clamour and groans of their fellows, but did not rightly know what to make of it; till, moving close round the head of our former ship, we shot the few who were left in the second frigate; then, throwing out our grapplings, we towed her off, and then bored and sunk her in the face of her owners.

They thereupon set up such a yell of despair and horror as was affecting, even to the hearts of their enemies. At length they turned the cannon of the Centurion upon

upon us, but we soon got out of reach of their shot; and by the time we were about three leagues from them, we saw our good Centurion go to the bottom, the glorious tomb of her noble captain.

We now thought that, of about a thousand assailants, there was not one left to carry tidings to their native country of their defeat. But, going down to the state-cabin, I saw a young man richly dressed, and of a noble aspect, leaning wounded upon a couch, with three attendants about him.

As I entered, he gave me a look that seemed compounded of apprehension and courage, and accosted me in broken English, for he had travelled much, and resided for a season in London.

I know, said he, that I am your prisoner; I also know what I am to expect. Draw your cutlafs then, and let me join my countrymen! No, Sir, I replied, you have
nothing

nothing to fear from me. A man, who deserves that name, owes nothing but love to man, except when he is assaulted; the brave see no enemy in the feeble or the conquered.

Where have you learned, he cried, the sentiments of my own soul? But your generosity shall loose you nothing; demand what ransom you please, and it shall be paid you. I am not commander in chief, I answered; but, as far as my influence reaches, you are free as air, and shall be bound to us by nothing but your affections. Then, stretching forth his arm, Your hand, my brother! he cried; and giving me a kind squeeze, the tear came in into his eye.

I went directly on deck, and informed our little crew, now reduced to thirty-three, of what had passed between the noble Moor and myself; and told them, I hoped they would be so generous as to make my promise good. To this the greater number
gladly

gladly assented, but some of them murmured. Hereupon I remonstrated, that we were already rich enough; for we had brought all the money out of our own ship, beside the great treasure in the Pirate-frigate, which we had not yet divided. I further represented, that we knew not what the events of war or fortune might be; and that it would not be imprudent to make a friend on the African coast, who, in all appearance, was a person of high consideration; and, with these reasons, at length all appeared to be satisfied.

I then carried the pleasing tidings to my new friend, and took with me our only surviving surgeon, who dressed the wound in his thigh, which had been made by a musket-ball.

As soon as the surgeon had withdrawn, the noble Osmyn of Petra, for so he was called, presented me with his purse, and a carbuncle-ring of extraordinary value, and pressed

pressed them earnestly upon me; but I as peremptorily refused them, and this refusal appeared to distress him greatly.

During the five days in which we continued together, I had him as tenderly and as honourably attended, as our circumstances would admit; and I spent with him all the time I could spare from my duties and great fatigues upon deck, as all the hands we had were kept busily employed in splicing the ropes, refitting the mangled sails and rigging, and in repairing the breaches of the vessel, for our shot had bored her sides quite through in several places.

On these accounts we failed but heavily, still making towards the Streights, and daily wishing to meet or be overtaken by some English ship of force, to which we might safely confide ourselves and our treasures.

On

On the sixth morning, having arrived within twenty leagues of the mouth, the day discovered to us, that we were almost within shot of a ship that carried English colours. Hereat we rejoiced with exceeding great joy, and slackening our sail, and heaving out a small boat, ten of us slipped into it, and away we rowed with all our might. As we approached, we saw numbers, in English dresses, walking to and again on deck; and, getting along-side, they threw ropes over to us, and we mounted with great alacrity.

Hitherto we were so intoxicated with joy, that we had not the precaution to hail them, till we found ourselves in the very thick of our enemies. I looked round, and seeing none but tawny and hostile faces about me, I civilly demanded who, and of what country they were; when a ruffian, gathering his spittle spirted it full in my face, and, at the same time, gave me a

G

buffet

buffet on the side of my cheek. Then I did not once reflect either where or among whom I was, but with one stroke of my fist, I stretched him flat upon the deck: then throwing up the heels of another who had raised his arm against me, he fell with his head foremost across his fellow; and twisting round on a third, who had seized me behind by the shoulder, I dragged him under me, and we fell together upon the board. Here a crowd of them gathered over me, and, each helping to hold a leg or an arm, I was bound with cords that crushed my flesh to the very bone, and then tumbled with kicks, like a dog, along the deck.

Mean time my nine companions who had offered to interpose, were also seized and bound, and cast into the hold.

For about three hours I lay in excessive anguish, though through a sort of stubborn pride, I endeavoured to suppress my groans.

In

In the interim I felt the ship begin to move, and soon after I perceived all in a bustle about me. Again I heard from within and without, several discharges of small arms, and as I saw several Moors fall lifeless or convulsive, and biting the deck around me, I rightly concluded that the ships were engaged. I gave a long and deep groan, and I cried aloud, O, my countrymen! my brave countrymen! why am I not with you? why have I not the happiness of dying with you and for you? and my heart was so wrung that I fainted quite away.

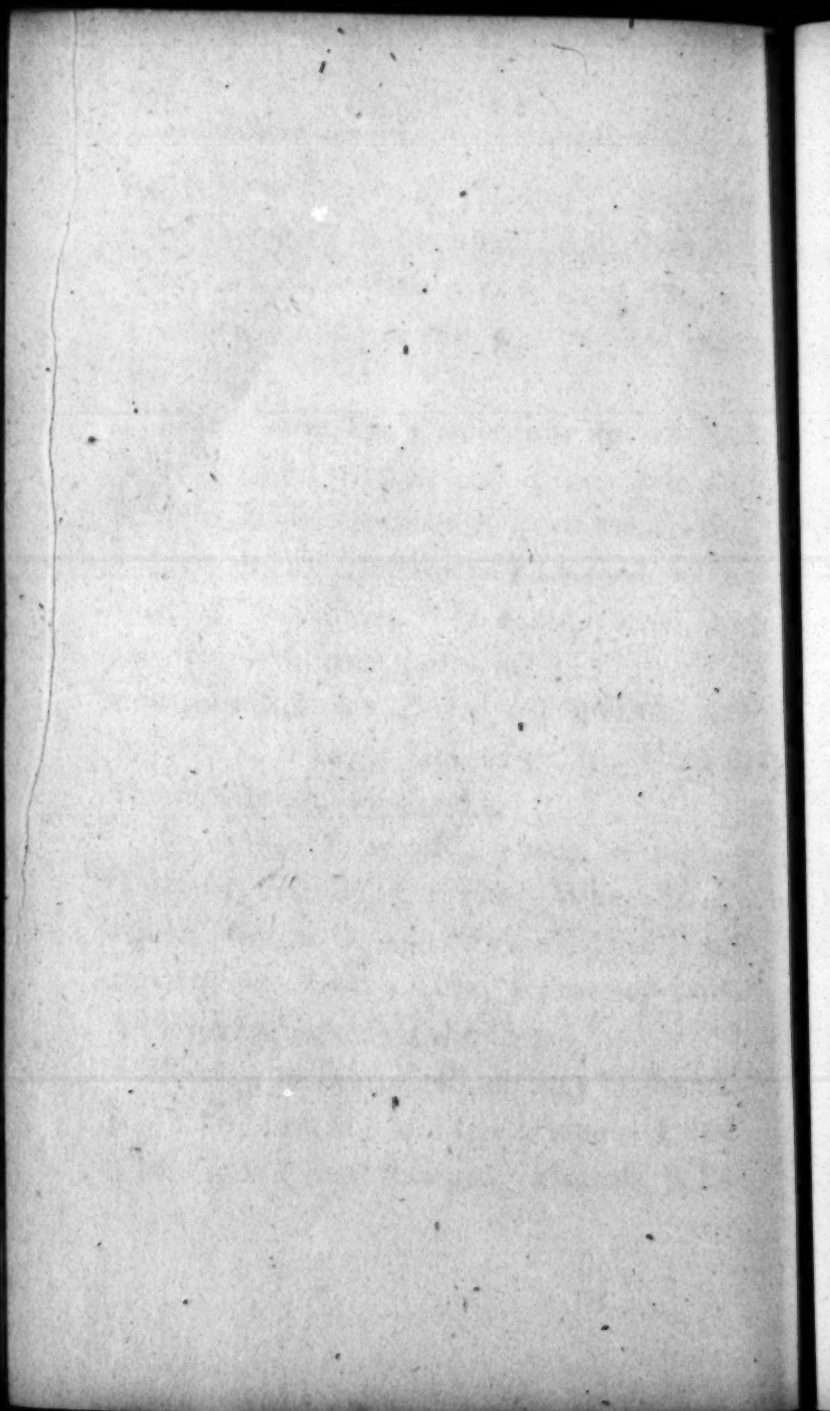
I afterwards learned, that my true and valiant fellows had refused to submit upon summons: that the pirate, seeing them so few, and being desirous of saving the frigate for their own use, had attacked them with small arms, which were warmly answered on our part; when, having dropped or disabled above half of our brave

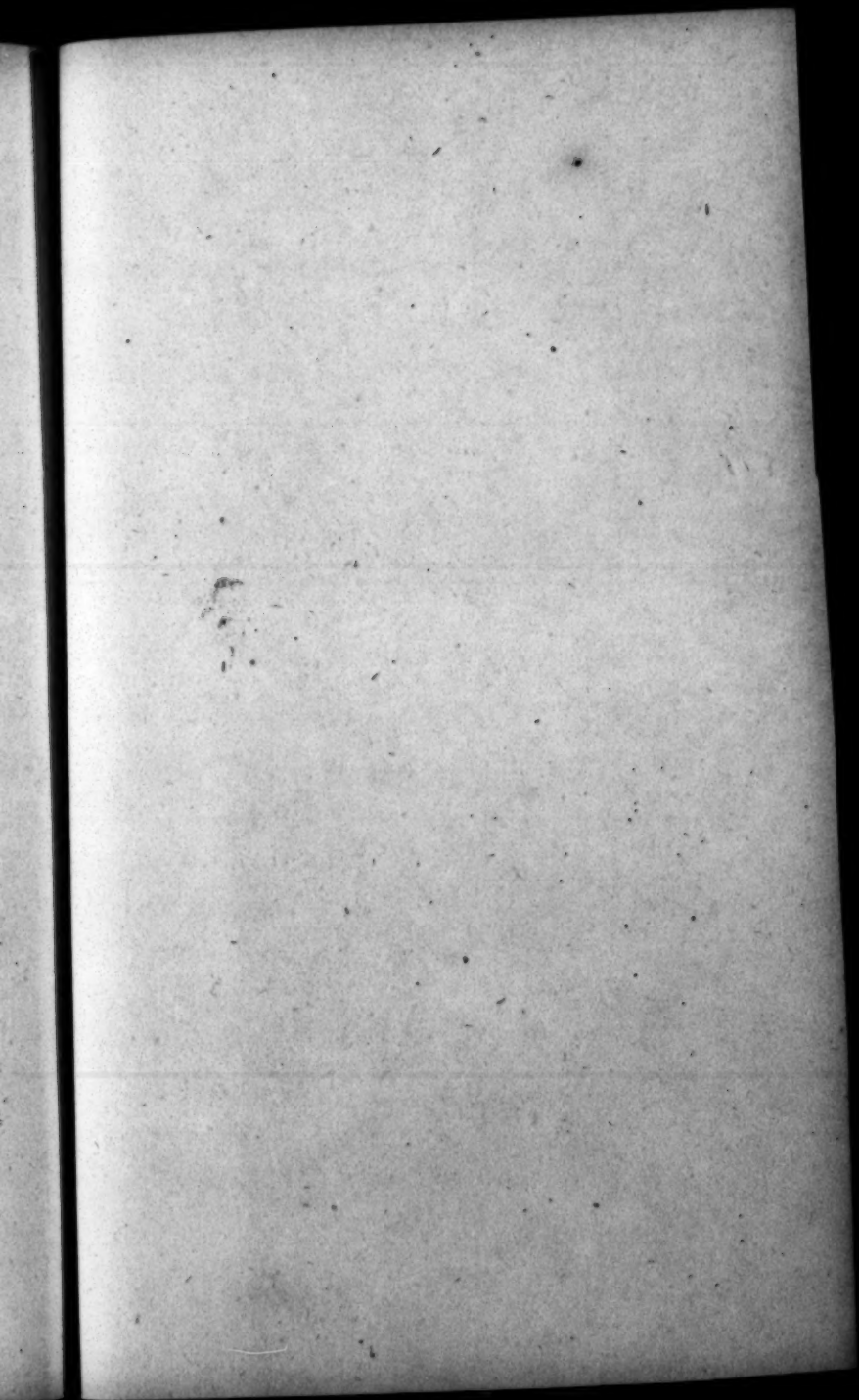
English, with two of Osmyn's attendants who happened to be upon deck, they entered and mercilessly butchered the remainder, among whom was our old mate and surgeon.

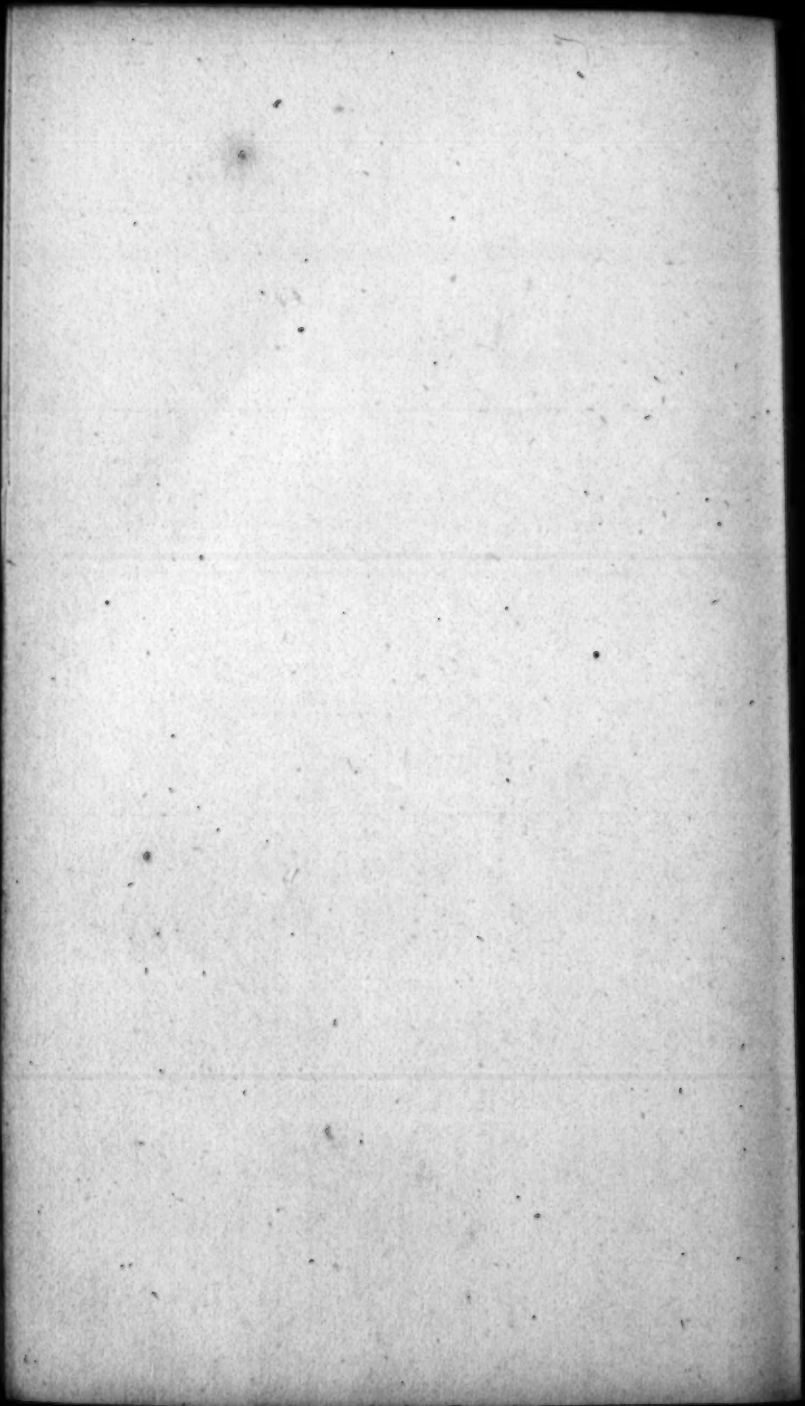
Mean time I lay insensible to all that passed, till a ruffian seeing me pale and lifeless, in all appearance, gave me a wring by the nose. Hereupon I awaked to the bitterest sensations. It remembered me of my gallant messmates, who had so loved and caressed me above my merits; and my tears, without sigh or groan, went in streams down my cheeks.

At length I heard a voice, a known voice, as I thought, crying, Where is my friend, where is my brother David? and turning my head a little, I saw my noble Osmyn just entering the ship.

Having instantly cast an eye of searching love around, he 'spied where I lay, and coming and throwing himself beside me,







ward the end of a sleepless night, a gang of armed ruffians entered the place where we lay, and loaded us with irons. They then took away all our clothes and treasures, and threw to each of us a canvas shirt and drawers, as slaves prepared for the market.

The moment they laid their hands upon me, it occurred that they would not have dared to do it, if they had not first made away with my dear friend and patron; at which thought my soul grew instantly sick, and a dark cloud of sorrow fell heavily upon it.

Sore and shackled as I was, I got immediately on deck, and looked wistfully out to sea, but could discover no frigate. I then shuffled along as fast as I could to the cabin, where I had parted the night before with my Osmyn, and looking in at the door, I cried aloud, Where are you, Lord Osmyn, where are you, my master!

my

my friend! my dear Osmyn! where are you, where are you?

When no answer could be had, I returned wild with rage and grief, and notwithstanding my chains, had I not been disabled by my contusions, I should have done my best to throttle every man I met. But all I could do was to wring my hands, and roar aloud to all around. Ye butchers! ye cut-throats! ye villains of all villains! what have ye done with your Lord, what have you done with your master, what have ye done with my friend, with my Osmyn, my Osmyn?

For two nights and two days I tasted nothing but water, which I drank in large quantities, as my soul, as well as body, was in a ferment and fever. On the third day, the captain fearing that I would die of grief, and that he should lose what he proposed to get by my sale, sent a kind of interpreter to me, to let me know, that,

on

on the night in which I parted with Osmyn, he and the captain soon after had some warm words concerning their rights in the frigate, and in the English now on board; whereupon Osmyn swore, that he would not remain any longer in his ship; and that, taking with him a number of hands, he reembarked in the frigate, and directly set sail.

As this tale carried with it some face of a fact, I grew easier in my mind; and, on the very day following, having anchored in the bay of Algiers, my fellows and I were taken into the town, and sold at public market.

I happened to be bought by one of the Dey's factors, who immediately sent me to work at his country-palace.

This work was a most stupendous undertaking. Above five hundred men had been daily employed in it for two years past, and yet a third of it was not done when I arrived.

A large

A large lawn extended itself in the front of the palace, and here the Dey had ordered a great canal to be dug, and from its excavation a mount to be raised, whose base measured three hundred yards in circumference. The ascent was easy and spiral, much resembling the prints you have seen of the tower of Babel. The border of this ascent was adorned all the way with lofty cedars interlaced with all sorts of aromatic and flowering shrubs; and from the top before I left it, was to be seen the bay, the shipping, the city, and country all around, while distant mountains on the one hand, and an extent of ocean on the other, alone bounded the prospect.

You will think it very extraordinary, when I assure you, that, till I was in a state of slavery, my mind never was free. Hitherto I had been the slave of sin, and of appetite, of passions, and of fears. But
here

here I counted to set up my rest for life. I had no parents, no wealthy kindred, no friend upon earth, to whom I might look for a pennyworth of ransom. There was therefore no further prospect for me, there was nothing further left to incite my desire, or to excite my concern; and I sunk gradually, as it were, down into the peace of my own nothingness.

I had been lately the possessor of the value of some thousands, and now I had not wherewithal to purchase a morsel of bread. But I looked back on the many scenes of my very many wickednesses, and I did not look up to, but looked down before God, and cried: Not enough, it is not yet enough, something sharper, something heavier! some punishment that may expiate and reconcile me to God.

One night as I lay on my bed of stubble, I looked up to God, through the cloud of my own iniquities, and said, In life,

H

O my

O my Lord, lay what thou pleasest upon me, but, in the hour of death, save, save me from the judgment! Whereupon something within me said, Fear not, thou vile wretch, fear not, thou worm David, for nothing shall be able to pluck thee out of my hand. This gave me great consolation, and consolation was followed by peace, and peace was followed by pleasure; insomuch that I possessed more of the sweetness of heartfelt enjoyment, than came to the share of twenty sensualists.

The Dey or Regent then being was called Ali Eben Buchar. He was a great warrior, and yet a man of an amiable character, which is rarely the case with Moorish governors. He had been at Constantinople when I was enslaved; and, on his return, he was so solicitously engaged in matters of state, that he was not at leisure to come and see our works. Toward the end of the second year of my servitude,

servitude, he arrived with a pompous train. He was a portly and comely personage, though his complexion was a deep olive. He expressed high delight on surveying what we had done; and he ordered a festival of three days to be proclaimed for his labourers, with sports, martial exercises, and prizes for the victors.

Great preparations were made for this entertainment. In a plain, on the left of the palace, a square of half a mile diameter was inclosed with pales; within which none were permitted to enter, save the Dey and his train, with those who laboured in his several works, amounting to about a thousand men. On one side, within the pales, a throne was erected, with two seats, and lower benches were placed on either hand.

Early on the morning of the first appointed day, the festival was opened by

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the found of trumpets and horns, and other martial instruments.

It had been a custom among us of the labourers who were young and active, when the day's work was over, to divert our fellows with various exercises and feats, such as wrestling, running, leaping, and tossing or trundling leaden balls, and so forth; I was therefore up among the soonest, in hopes of distinguishing myself on the occasion.

By the dawning, the city was emptied of its inhabitants, and crowds came on after crowds, from all parts of the country, so that the pales were soon circled by an innumerable concourse.

Then came Ali, with his attendants, and entering the pale, ascended his throne, while his courtiers and guards arranged themselves behind.

Then were exalted, on poles, the prizes that were to be given to such of the
flaves,

slaves, or labourers, as excelled in tossing the javelin, or in hitting a distant mark with the bow or with the sling. But, as I had not been practised in these matters, I contented myself, for this day, with being a spectator. Some of the candidates, on this occasion, were extremely expert, and would send an arrow, or sling a stone, more directly to the mark than any European could shoot a musket-bullet; accordingly the generous Ali added freedom to the prizes which they had won, and immediately preferred them among his troops.

After this, Ali, to entertain his people, ordered a dozen of his courtiers to run at the ring. Immediately a number of neighing steeds, richly caparisoned, were led by lackeys into the lists. The young nobles, without stirrup or saddle, vaulted lightly into their seats, and turning and winding their fiery horses with wonderful command and address, gave high delight

to the spectators. Each of them then caught a javelin, which was tossed to him by an attendant; and setting out, successively, almost at their speed, three of them, in midcourse, bore off a small ring of brass, from the thread by which it hung, on the point of his lance.

After this, again, a great number of burlesque comedians entered the pales, in order to act one of their African drolls or pantomimes; some of them represented men, some tygers, lions, and bears; others ghosts, and others goblins. But I could make nothing of such a jumblement of intention, although it gave great diversion to the populace. And thus ended the sports of the present day.

While the people retired homeward, several waggons were drawn in, heavy laden with victuals and cooling liquors, wherewith all the slaves and labourers were plentifully regaled.

The

The second day was ushered in with the like pomp as the former; and prizes were set up for lifting the weight, for tossing the coit, and for pitching the bar.

At a little distance from the front of the throne, a ring was fastened to a leaden mass, that weighed above five hundred pounds, and above fifty adventurers successively attempted to lift, but not a man of them could move it. I then advanced, bowing lowly toward the throne, and putting my right hand in the ring, and exerting my powers, I raised it fairly from the ground, whereupon a great shout was suddenly given by all my companions who worked with me at the mount. Hereupon a black came up, of Herculean bulk and brawn, and, desiring that fifty pounds more should be added to the lead, he lifted and swung them in the air, with apparent ease, and the prize was accordingly adjudged to him.

A large

A large iron coit was then given to the competitors, and about a dozen of them tossed it to a distance that was thought extraordinary. I then took it up, and threw it three foot beyond the farthest. But again, the black slave came up, who was not one of our company, and tossed it two feet beyond my cast, and consequently atchieved the second prize.

A long and inassive bar was then presented to us, but all refused to take it in hand, till the same black seized it, and, putting one end to his foot, pitched it off to a distance that raised a cry of admiration. I then took my turn, and giving my whole strength and action to this single cast, I pitched it some inches beyond the throw of my rival, whereupon another shout was given and repeated. The black then was wholly enflamed by envy and resentment, and reclaiming the bar, and exerting all his force, he threw it to a
length,

length, that, on admeasurement, was judged to exceed my cast, and he proudly laid hold on the third prize.

The great Ali then ordered me to be brought before him. I went, and bending on my knee, laid my head to the earth. Rise, said he; I obeyed, and he surveyed me with long and earnest attention. Young man, he cried, you have been this day something unfortunate, but you have not the less merit; put this ring on your finger; it discharges you henceforth from all kind of labour; but it does not enfranchise you, because, for the present, I do not chuse to part with you. I respectfully took the ring, and again bowing to the ground, retired in silence.

A tournament of the young nobles then ensued, wherein great feats of action and prowess were shewn. And the day ended with another droll to which I gave no heed.

The

The morning of the third day was opened as usual, and prizes were exhibited for wrestling, for running, and for leaping.

Immediately the black champion stepped formidably forth, and challenged any to approach, who desired to be crushed to death, but not a man accepted this charitable invitation. Unwilling, then, that this boaster should carry off the prize without a contest, I stepped from my rank, depending more upon action than force to cope with him. We both stripped to our canvas drawers, and his looks and gestures menaced me with instant destruction. I advanced however to essay him, and he stretched his arms toward me, as a vulture would reach his pounces to seize upon a chicken; when, springing instantly up to him, I put a hand upon each of his shoulders, and vaulting lightly over his head, I turned nimbly upon him, threw up his heels, and laid him at his length on the earth.

As

As the contrast of our colours had rendered us remarkable to all the spectators, a shout was set up that rent the very elements. But the black arose, and roared aloud, with his lion like voice, for justice; and the judges, on weighing the matter, appointed me to another trial, forbidding further fraud.

Again we prepared to engage, and again my black adversary stretched forth his arms, with eyes flashing fire, and features distorted with rage; when retiring from him, as if dismayed, I shot forward like lightning, and springing from the ground, I pitched the whole weight of my body into his bosom. This staggered him some steps backward, when, continuing to press upon him, I put one foot behind, and he fell under me, with a horrible squelch, upon the sand: and dashing my hand against his forehead, I sprung up lightly on my feet.

Here

Here the people repeated their clamours, which were echoed for a long space from side to side; while I proposed to the judges, that if my rival was not yet satisfied, I would give him the other venture. But the black was so far from being in plight for a third engagement, that he could not rise without help on either hand; and the prize being a fine turban with a diamond button, was put upon my head.

The competitors for the race then came from among the crowd, being fifteen in number, lightly equipt for the purpose; and I also put on a thin canvas waistcoat that came close to my body.

In the front of the throne, a long pole was set up, from whence we were to start, and another pole was erected on the further side, round which we were to run, and so return to the post from whence we set out.

We

We were all arranged in a line, and Ali himself was to give the word, when one or our fellows, either thinking, or pretending to think, that the word was given, started away, the rest followed, and I was left alone, quietly standing by the post. Why do not you set out? said Ali. When your Highness shall be pleased to give the word. Away, then! he cried, and away I sprung.

As I found that I was gathering them up very fast, I suspended my speed, and lingered behind the hindmost, till they had all turned the post, and extended in a long line before me. I then started away, and passed one, and then another, till, having passed them all, I left the foremost at a distance behind me, and seized the goal; whereon Ali himself gave a cry of admiration, which was answered from all sides by all his people.

I

I was

I was then presented with a velvet-tunic embroidered with gold; and some smaller matters were given to the two who came next to me in speed.

The candidates for the third prize then rose from the ground where they had sat to repose themselves; for they were the same persons who had been competitors in the race. A scarlet girdle was stretched along the grass, as a mark from whence the rivals were to set off on their leap. And each of them took a run, till they came to the appointed limit, and then sprung forward with their utmost agility.

As this, of all others, was the article of bodily exercise wherein I excelled, I stood by as an unconcerned spectator, till the contest was over. I then measured with my eye the length they had passed. Then, taking two men, I set them in mid-space, and placing a pole upon their heads, I took a run, and throwing myself head foremost

over

over the pole, I turned in the air, and alighted six inches beyond the farthest leap; whereupon I was presented with a collar adorned with gems of great lustre.

Ali then ordered two troops of his lightest horse to come forward. Accordingly they entered the pale, and, dividing, they retired to opposite sides of the lists. The populace then fell back, and cleared the intermediate space, and the young officers set forward, on a half-gallop, at the head of their troops.

Never did I see such action, such horsemanship. The officers, as they rode swiftly forward, would toss their lances aloft, and then catch them in mid air; and again they would cast them to a distance before them, and, stooping, take them from the ground in the midst of their speed.

The troops then met, as should seem, in mortal opposition; and breaking their frail lances against each other, they drew

the wooden sabres, and each, passing his adversary, gave a back stroke to his neck with such force and agility as was truly alarming. Their ranks then appeared to be broken on either part. And, instantly forming themselves into little rhombs, or squares, or wedges, they fought and mixed together, as in a country dance, with the most regular confusion that ever was beheld.

This was justly delightful to all the spectators; and I regreted their departure for the ridiculous entrance of a third pantomime.

While this droll was preparing, I received an order from Ali, to dress myself in the prizes which I had won, and to attend him.

I obeyed, and presented myself before him. What is your name, young man? David, so please your Highness. Are you of Christ or of Mahomet, David?

My

My will is with Christ, so please you; but, while I confess him with my lips, my whole life has denied him. Then, David, if you will but forsake Christ, and turn to Mahomet, you shall be the friend of Ali, and he will heap treasures, and titles, and great honours upon you. Ah, my lord! I cried out, though I hold my Christ but by a frail and feeble thread, yet I would not quit that thread for a chain of golden links, that should bind the whole wealth of the world to my possession. And why would your Highness desire the service of a traitor? He who proves a traitor to his God, so please you, can never prove true to any master.

Well, David, said he mildly, we may talk of these matters hereafter. In the mean time, before I do you any grace, I ought at least to do you justice. You have already received the rewards of your valour and your activity, but you have not

yet received the reward of your obedience. You were the only one, brave David, who, at the risk of your own honour, attended on my word, and here I give you an earnest of the recompence that I intend you.

So saying, he presented me with a large and massive sabre, whose handle was studded with gems of great value. I received it on my knee; he then continued, Ask me now, David, what further gift you demand, except your dismissal, and it shall be granted you, to a tenth of the treasure in my coffers.

When he had spoken, my eye was caught by one of his retinue, and immediately I recollected the features of the pirate Barbar.

I instantly cast myself prostrate before his throne, and cried aloud, Ah, generous Ali! may God multiply on you treasures and blessings a thousand fold! I ask none
of

of your treasures and possessions, O Ali! I only ask the head of that traitor, the head of Barbar; I ask but blood for blood: let him restore to me my friend, my brother, my lord Osmyn; he is a murderer, a traitor, and such I will prove him by night or by day, by sea or by land; at any weapons, against any odds, I will prove him a traitor.

While I spoke, thus impassioned, all about appeared under the utmost consternation; and Barbar trembled and turned pale, but did not dare to quit his station.

Rise, David, said Ali, and tell me what friend, what Osmyn thou dost mean? All I know of him, my Lord, is, that his name was Osmyn of Petra, and that he was nephew to some great prince in this part of the world.

Why, you dream surely, David, replied the regent, Osmyn of Petra was my own nephew; and he perished, with all his crew, by the hands of the English.

He

He did not perish by the hands of the English, I cried; the English were his preservers, his friends, his attendants, and he perished by the hands of his own countrymen, and more especially by the hands of this traitor Barbar.

Well, said Ali, we have not leisure, at present, to examine into the truth of these allegations; Guards, take that Barbar into safe and close custody, till we are better informed touching the facts with which he is charged, Mean time do you, David, follow in my train; for you must take up your lodging with me this night.

The palace, though it appeared one uniform edifice, was divided into two by an impassable barrier. The one was the occasional habitation of Ali and his attendants: and his wives, with their eunuchs, were lodged in the other, where it was impalement for any man, save Ali himself, to enter.

For

For three days and nights, after I entered his palace, though I was treated with an attention that gave me much uneasiness, yet I had not the honour of being called to his presence.

At length I was conducted by a private door to his cabinet. My friend David, said he, what hast thou to tell me concerning my dear and brave nephew Osmyn? I then minutely, and at large, related to him the particulars above related: and we shed many tears, that were mutually provoked by the tears of each other.

Having closed my narration, he cast his eyes down a while, as in deep meditation; and raising them again, he said, The presumptions are strong, very strong, against this man, and yet there is a possibility that he may be guiltless. And though Osmyn was my nephew, my blood, and almost my bowels; yet honour, humanity, demands of us, David, that nine criminals should

should escape the punishment they deserve, rather than one innocent person should perish. But the great Alla may give us further lights in this business.

In about five days after, a convict was to be gauched for the rape and murder of a free woman. He was to be thrown from the top of a high tower, from whose walls projected several sharp and shagged instruments, resembling hooks, scythes, tenters, &c. at certain distances, some below others.

He fainted several times as he was carrying to execution; and then being in an agony, he said he had a matter of the highest consequence to impart to the great Ali, and prayed to be brought directly into his presence.

I was on the spot when he was led in, and looking earnestly at him, recollected that he was the ruffian who had spit in my face, and given me a buffet when I entered Barbar's ship.

Wretch,

Wretch, cried the Dey, what hast thou to say to Ali? That I am guilty, answered the convict, of crimes more heinous and capital than that for which I am to suffer; of crimes that nearly concern yourself, O Ali, but which you shall never know, unless you swear to me, by Mahomet, to mitigate the manner of my death. I do swear it said the regent, provided the discovery which you make shall be found to be of due import.

He then deposed, that on the night in which Osmyn disappeared, the captain, with ten confederated ruffians, of whom he was one, entered the Prince's cabin, and having muffled the faces of him and his attendants, to prevent their crying out, bound them hand and foot, and heaved them through the window into a boat that waited for them: That then getting into the frigate, they massacred the seven Moors to whose care she had been left, and kissing
her

her of all the money, and plate, and valuables they could find, they sunk the frigate, with Ofynyn and his attendant in her, and then returned to their own ship.

Here Barbar was sent for, who was brought in chains, into the presence. But as soon as he saw the face of the convict, without waiting to be confronted by his evidence, he rushed violently, with his head foremost, toward the opposite wall; and if a man who was at hand had not caught him by the chain, he would instantly have dashed his skull to shivers.

Ali hereupon, without farther examination, ordered the head of the convict to be struck off in the morning, and Barbar to be impaled in the face of the people.

Never was joy like mine, on hearing this sentence pronounced against Barbar; and I rose early the next morning in order to have the pleasure of being at his execution.

He

He was so enfeebled by his panics, that they were obliged to draw him on a sledge to the stake; and his countenance had all the impressions of death, despair, and hell represented upon it.

This, however, did not affect me with any other sensation than of that delight which is naturally felt on the gratification of revenge, till the executioners, with unfeeling hearts, and merry tauntings, began to take the wretch in hand. But when I saw them with difficulty and great violence thrusting the stake through his body, which they run up withinside the spinal bone, and so out at the back of his neck, in order to avoid his bowels, and keep him the longer in anguish; when I saw him writhing in agony, and heard his horrible roars and groanings, all my revenge was quickly turned into terror and compassion; his pangs and sufferings, as it seemed, were transferred to my own person, and

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had I not turned away I should have fainted on the spot.

The Dey, from this time, became extremely fond of me, and familiar with me. He allotted me an affluent pension, with slaves, horses, and attendants. He said I should be to him in the place of a nephew, and of a son, and he called me by the name of David Ofmyn.

Some time after, tidings were brought that Caled Amurath of Fez, was making mighty preparations to invade his dominions. We will more than meet him half-way, cried the gallant Ali; perhaps we may even prevent his threatened expedition. He then summoned his forces from all quarters. I was present when he made a general muster of them. His foot were more formidable for their numbers than their discipline; but his horse were perfectly trained, and made a most brilliant appearance.

The

The day before he set out, I threw myself at his feet. I will go with you my master, I will go with you, I cried. I will not have any command or post of preference or honour; I only desire permission to fight by your side, that you may witness how greatly I shall dare in your cause; how ready I shall be to take, to my own bosom, all the weapons that shall be aimed at your bosom, my father.

No, David, he replied, my people know you are still a Christian. I could not refrain from shewing thee love I have for you; and that might be matter of jealousy and discontent to my captains. I will leave you here a band of soldiers, with whom you are to encamp within sight of my palace, and to keep these walls from violence, and my women from pollution. But, while you are their guardian, beware that you do not turn an invader, David! I would pardon you any thing but this;

I would not pardon you the invasion of my bed, David Osmyn! No, my lord, I cried aloud, I cannot prove ungrateful. Though your women were as obvious to my walks as yonder pavement, and though adorned with more graces than their first mother in paradise, they should have no temptation for me, my master!

The next morning Ali began his march; and having escorted him a piece on his way, I returned to my charge.

That night, as I lay in my tent, I began to call myself to an account. David, said I to my soul, thou hast now gotten preferment, and riches, and honours; thou art, as it were, the second man in the realm, and all this people have thee in high estimation; but art thou the better or the happier man for all this, David? Far otherwise, far otherwise. O frail and vain heart! these gauds and these glories have taken hold upon thee, and they have drawn
a painted

a painted veil between me and my God. To my chain, and my straw, and my nakedness! return me to them, O Lord! return me to my slavery, return me to my labours! I was not then, indeed, gaining conquests, and winning prizes; but I was near to obtaining "the prize of the high calling." My body was not then adorned with gold and pearl; but my spirit rejoiced in "the pearl of mighty price."

In about five weeks after, as I was taking, by moon light, my evening's walk of meditation, on the marble that checked the pavement before the palace, Muley, an old black, and chief of the eunuchs of the seraglio, came up and accosted me. Osmyn, said he, taking a bundle from under his arm, I have here a present for you that would make proud the greatest emperor upon earth. It is a complete suit wrought purposely for you by the fingers of the sultana, as also by the fingers of her

fair and princely sisters. They have heard of your great achievements during the festival, and they send you this in reward.

So saying, he unfolded the robes to the moon. They were flowered with gold, pearls, and gems of such a vivid lustre as reflected her beams with tenfold brightness.

And what is required of me, Muley, I demanded, in return for this inestimable honour and bounty? Nothing, said Muley, but a single hour's attendance, to give them a short sketch of your life and adventures. Take back your presents, I cried, there is poison and death in them; I will not betray the trust that our master has reposed in me. Nay, said Muley, I affirm to you that there is no such intention. Our ladies are all women of the severest chastity. I will undertake to conduct, and reconduct you back in safety. Neither can our master be betrayed in any degree.

They

They all live together, they love like sisters, and no one keeps a secret from the other. However, they desired me to tell you, that, if you are of a fearful temper, they will not insist on the favour so much expected.

Here I felt myself piqued: No, Muley, I cried, I am no coward. I can dare all honest dangers. I will attend you. But I will not stay, Muley. I will let your ladies know, that, in the cause of honour and virtue, I can resist all temptations.

I then called a distant slave, who waited my orders, and giving him the bundle, desired him to lay it within my tent. Where now, Muley? said I. I will shew you, said Muley.

He then led me to a large bucket, wherein water was accustomed to be raised, by pulleys, to the balcony, and there to be emptied into vessels that stood upon the leads.

You

You must not enter any door of the lower story, said Muley; for there our domestics inhabit, and might, propably, observe you. But, if you get into this bucket, in a minute or two after, I will raise you by the pulleys, and take you gently in.

Muley then went from me, and was admitted on striking at a distant door; while I stood by the bucket, and, observing its first motion, jumped in, and was conveyed to the top of the palace.

Muley there received me in darkness and silence, and taking me by the hand, led me down by a few steps into a narrow apartment that was scarcely enlightened by a glimmering lamp. He there left me again, giving me only a whispering promise that he would quickly return. I waited for him long, however, under great impatience of getting speedily back again. At length he came, and taking me by the hand,

hand, without speaking a word, he led me through a long and dark entry, till, coming to a folding-door, he touched a spring, whereupon the door flew open on either side, and threw a sudden blaze upon my dazzled eyes.

The saloon upon which it opened, was profusely illuminated, and most sumptuously furnished; but my attention was quickly called from such inferior objects. In the midst a board was covered with an elegant collation. Around it were placed a great number of small sofas; and behind each sofa stood a lady richly adorned, but veiled from the head to the waist.

Again Muley led me to the further end, while I made a low obeisance as I passed the company. He then compelled me to sit, where, by a small turn of my head, I could have a full prospect of each fair-one at table. Then, as by one motion, they were all instantly seated; and again, as

by

by one motion, they all instantly threw up their veils, and I had like to have fallen backward with the suddenness of the lustre that flashed upon my spirit.

All the ladies smiled, and seemed delighted at my astonishment. The Sultana Adelaide sat nearest to me, on the right; and was no way distinguished from her sisters, but by a small coronet of feathered diamonds that was inserted in her lovely locks. Osmyn, said she, you seem something surprized; were you never in a seraglio before? Have you no seraglios in your country, Osmyn? No, Madam, I replied, we have no seraglio in our country; but sure, no seraglio upon earth ever produced such and so many beauties as now strike my eyes. Heaven alone can exhibit such a constellation of luminaries.

Would you not wish then, said Adelaide, to have such a seraglio of your own? No, Madam, I answered; without love, in
my

my judgment, there can be no true enjoyment: if ever I love, it can be but the one object, and her I shall love with my whole heart; true love will admit of no division. Here she looked at me with a tenderness that sunk into my soul, and, taking out her handkerchief, she wiped away a swelling tear.

Another lady then demanded if we had not a woman-market, and if they were not slaves in my country, as they were here? No, Madam, I replied, our fair ones there are not the subjects of merchandize, but the objects of admiration. No woman in England can be bound to any lover, save by her own affections. There, it is death for any man to have more than one wife, and that after a suit, perhaps of several years. A lady there, of equal beauties to the least excellent in company, would be followed by hundreds of humble and sighing adores. In England

land our actions are as free as our hearts; and the sensibilities of mutual love, between those of the sexes who feel that tender and enchanting passion, constitute the principal happiness of which life is capable.

Happy Englishwomen, happy Englishwomen! was echoed all around.

Alas, cried the lovely Adelaide, how very different is our fate! we are sold, like servile brutes, to any brute of a master. We neither love, nor are beloved; as you now have convinced me, Osmyn. We are subjected to vile desires, which we at once detest and suffer; and, when those desires are gratified, we are cast away as common lumber, to make room for some new comer. Even high as I sit here, the favoured Sultana of my Lord, I may tomorrow be appointed to the meanest offices of his household. This, surely, cannot be a marriage; for, as you have intimated,

mated, Osmyn, and as I feel in my own soul, marriage can only consist in an union of hearts. Love cannot be bought or sold; it is of too precious a nature; nothing can purchase, nothing compensate, save its value in love alone.

Here they pressed me to tell them my story; and I confess, to my shame, that, however vile I appeared in my own eyes, I was ambitious of appearing as honourable and deserving as possible in the eyes of the fair Adelaide. I therefore suppressed what was black, glossed over what was offensive, and enlarged on every thing that I deemed advantageous in my own character.

The night was far spent, by the time I concluded.

Adelaide was the first to press my retreat. It was not yet day. I found Muley in waiting. We came by the way we went; I stepped into the bucket, and he let me gently down.

L

As

As I approached the pavement, I felt a hand behind that seized me violently by the shoulder. I sprung out, and seizing the wretch by the throat, would instantly have plunged my poignard into his bosom; but some power as suddenly arrested my arm, and said to my heart, Beware that thou add not murder to adultery, David!

While I hesitated, a number rushed upon me unaware, they griped me by each arm, and wresting the poignard from me, they bound my hands behind, and led me to the cells of the Imams that stood something aloof from one end of the palace.

As soon as they had brought lights, What, Osmyn! exclaimed their chief, can this be our renowned Osmyn? Is it thus that you repay the favours of your generous and kind master? You are a Christian, cried another; has your Christ then taught you to betray the confidence and trust that is reposed in you? This was a
home

home stab; it went through my heart; but I stood in a shamefaced fullness, and opened not my lips.

Here they went apart, and, having consulted a while, returned. Osmyn, said their chief, you are a brave and a wonderful man, and it is a pity to lose you. Your secret is yet with us; and we swear to you, by our holy prophet, and by the terrible Alla, that if you perform the single condition we enjoin, we will bury what we know in a depth below the grave, and we will recommend you to the love of Ali, and the acclamation of all the people, and we will have you loaded with preferments, and riches, and honours. Name it quickly. I cried, whatever it may be, at the risk, at the loss of my life, I will perform it. It is, said he, no more than to abjure Christ, and to confess Mahomet, whose priests we are; and all the blessings of his

paradise shall be showered down upon you.

Here I gave a deep groan; and casting down my head, and shedding a silent tear, without daring to lift my thoughts to heaven: No, no, I cried, though Christ is nothing to me, though I have no interest in him; though he spurns and has rejected me, for time, and for eternity; though I have daily denied him by every action of my life; yet my tongue shall never deny him. In poverty and nakedness, in dangers and in dungeons, in death here and in hell hereafter, my mouth shall confess him.

Here they went apart again, and returning, told me, that I should have two days to deliberate on their proposal; but that, if I did not comply, I should be impaled alive on the third morning, with all the additional tortures that art could invent.

They

They then put me into a covered kind of a waggon, and conveyed me to Algiers, where I was cast into a noisome dungeon, bolted down to the ground with irons, sustained with coarse bread and water, and not allowed a ray of light to divert my thoughts from the darkness and horrors of my situation.

Mean time I endeavoured to reinforce my resolution, by repeating to myself the sacred promise, where Christ says, "Who-soever will confess me upon earth, him will I confess before my father which is in heaven." Mine indeed, said I, is but a verbal confession; but even that, with what I am about to suffer for his sake, may serve to make me less criminal, if not acceptable, in his sight.

I then longed to be brought to the test, while I shuddered at the thoughts of it. At length the day arrived. The Imams came, and once more repeated the ques-
tion;

tion; but I still persisted, though in terms that were scarcely intelligible, for my tongue cleaved with terror to the roof of my mouth.

They then stripped me to these drawers, out of which also they took my money, with other valuables, and every thing I had in the world, and, having tied me to a sledge, I was dragged to the place of execution,

The chief Imam once more asked, if I would renounce the son of David? but I made him no answer, for I was unable to speak. I had seen the preparations; the stake in the hands of the executioners; the fires kindling about me, with horrid instruments ready to be put therein, for the tearing of my frying and quivering flesh from the bones.

Could I then have had the confidence to have turned my soul to God, and to have besought his assistance in that trying
and

and terrible hour: I make no question but he would have given me strength from on high, to defy all that men or devils could do unto me: and I might now, in the regions of his bounty and his blessedness, have been pouring forth my existence, in the grateful and astonished sense of his mercy to such a sinner.

But when I reflected on the writhings of Barbar, the bare-sight of which my spirit was not able to support; when I saw such an apparatus of additional torments; and when they took me in hand, for instant execution, I utterly lost my senses; I shrunk inward with fear; my hairs stood on end with horror; my tongue found sudden utterance, and I cried, Stay, stay, I will say, I will do whatever you enjoin.

The Imam then began to pronounce a form of renunciation, which he ordered me to repeat after him; but I was so panting and breathless, that they were obliged to

to get a cordial for me to keep me from swooning.

As soon as my spirits were something restored, the Imam again began his impious ceremony, and I make no question but I should have gone through it, however abhorrent to my soul; but, in that instant, we heard distant shouts and cries, as of many people; the sound of the clamours drew nearer and nearer; and soon after, we saw numbers hurrying to and from the city. Their words became now as distinct as they were audible; Ali is slain, Ali is slain! was all the cry; and Amurath comes in full march upon us.

Here all turned suddenly from me, and flying several ways, left me unbound and alone, sitting close by the stake. Seeing this, I began to recover from the fearful and faint condition in which I was; and, rising, I made the best of my way to the port. There I saw a long-boat just about
to

to set off with a number of fellows, much in my own plight, and, taking a run, I sprang from the beach into the midst of them.

A man then demanded in English, if I was one of the ransomed? Yes, ransomed, ransomed, I cried; wonderfully ransomed indeed; whereupon, without further question, they set up their sail, and, in about two hours, we reached the ship which the consul had appointed to take them in.

For the remainder of that day, I continued in a state that is hard to be conceived. My head and stomach, at times, were disordered by sick fits, and my soul hovered in an astonished and fearful kind of doze, as one not rightly awaked from a dream of horror.

Toward evening I threw myself down in the hold, and sunk into a state of utter oblivion, as I had not slept for the three foregoing nights and days.

The

The day following I found my body something refreshed, but the situation of my mind was like that of a disturbed and tumbling sea after a raging storm. I looked around for comfort, but no comfort was near; I looked afar off for hope, but no hope came in prospect. The sense of existence became a misery under which I was not able to bear up; and could I have had my wish, creation would again have been uncreated.

During the whole of our voyage, I continued very nearly in this distemper of spirit. For though at times I would enter into the frolics and jovial humours of the crew, yet my merriment, at such seasons, was a merriment to madness; and I would again sink, precipitately, into a depth of despondence, whose darkness would admit no ray of consolation.

The tempter would then urge me, by dagger, or by drowning, or by any means,
to

to get rid of a being, that only served to torment me. But again, the dread that I might not get rid of that being, and that death might plunge me into a perpetuity of those pangs in which I saw the wretched Barbar agonizing, this deterred me from hastening the day of my horrid doom, and so I waited in a gloomy and "fearful
"looking out for judgment."

I would then call myself, at dead of night, before that terrible judgment. Thou fiend David, I would say, wherefore art thou sunk in guilt above all that ever were guilty? It was thy fortune to get three good and kind masters, good and kind above thy wants, and even up to thy wishes; and all these thou hast deceived, thou hast spoiled and betrayed them. Even the Master of all masters, the Master who was my freedom in the midst of my captivity, I was on the brink of denying the Jesus also: nay, I did reject, I did
deny

deny him; I promised, I engaged, to reject and deny him; and he will reject thee; through time, and through eternity, he will deny thee, David!

One evening a fearful tempest arose; and while most of the crew gave some of their little matters to the provedore for liquors, and sat, drowning the sense of danger, and profanely carousing, at one end of the ship, my companions, who are present, were praying or singing glory to God in the other. Both parties invited me to join them, but I refused to be partaker with either; for I could not abet in others that wickedness which I condemned and detested in myself; and I could not think of taking into my execrable mouth the sacred name of that Christ to whom I had so lately turned a false apostate. In the mean time, I held myself as the refugee Jonas, whose crimes brought perdition on all in the vessel; and I was on the

the point of advising the mariners to cast me out.

At length the tempest abated, but my perturbations did not abate. I wished to repent, but I deemed myself past the possibility of repentance; and thus I continued in a state of dissatisfaction and enmity against myself, against my God, against man and woman kind.

Having narrated these things to a friend, in whose goodness and piety I confided, and who had frequently advised and comforted me, he bade me, on this occasion, notwithstanding all that had passed, to take courage, and by no means to cast away all hope. “ Your case said he is bad enough; “ you have indeed been a loose liver and “ occasionally a daring sinner, but your “ own conscientious fears, magnify every “ thing against you, and paint you in your “ own eyes much worse than you are. Your “ error lay in trusting to your own sense

“ of

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“ of duty, and to your own strength in
“ resisting temptation, and the best man
“ that ever breathed, with no better de-
“ pendance, must inevitably have fallen
“ as you did. Weak is the strongest left
“ to himself, against the powerful instiga-
“ tions of flesh and blood; and, you
“ David, now know your own weakness,
“ and taught by repeated experience, that
“ in or of your own self, you can no more
“ stand against the enemies of your soul,
“ when they assail you, than a tree seve-
“ red from its root, and barely set on end,
“ can withstand the assaults of an heavy
“ tempest; keep, therefore, fast by your
“ root; nor once dare in your own might
“ to oppose yourself to a reed. Think of
“ the pit whence you were hewn, and
“ apply to the rock higher than you, cling
“ to him who is as the shadow of a great
“ rock in a weary land; the rock of ages,
“ and the strong rock of his peoples sal-
“ vation;

“ vation; lean upon him, repose your
 “ whole confidence in him, and then your
 “ weakness will become stronger than an ar-
 “ my of banners, and neither life, nor death,
 “ nor principalities, nor powers, nor things
 “ present, nor things to come, shall hence-
 “ forth be able to separate you from the
 “ love of God, which is in Christ Jesus.”

Words cannot express my feelings from
 this consolatory address, something like the
 mysterious power of a new existence, or a
 renovation that was actually life from the
 dead, shook my whole frame, and at that
 moment must have been visible in my
 voice, my gesture, and my whole demean-
 our. Every sin committed by me from my
 cradle, rose up in such multitudes, as no
 man could number, and threatened to ear-
 ry me into immediate and utter perdition.

Impelled by the pressure which then over-
 whelmed me, I lifted up my penitent eyes
 to heaven, which exhibited on the one hand

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a thick

a thick foreboding cloud; but that cloud was stamped with a rainbow, and on the other such a vision to my imagination as can never be forgotten. It was a voluminous scroll, on which all my deviations from duty, my infirmities and transgressions were written in legible and burnished characters. The sentence which concluded the supernatural instrument, can never be erased from my heart, *Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished.* Immediately the heavens seemed to open, and gently unfolded an azure cloud, with this gracious and important label. *Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world!* So unspeakably did all this transport me, that, like St. Paul, whether I was in the body or out of the body, I cannot tell; but the things I then both heard and saw, were unutterable!

Now falling on my knees, I cried out, with uplifted hands, "I am henceforth thine, O
" heavenly

“ heavenly master! deign to accept the
 “ humble but unfeigned contrition of a
 “ sinner, who has no hope but in thy mer-
 “ cy, and who trusts with unfeigned confi-
 “ dence in thy goodness.”

Here I was however among a gang of heathens, both in words and deeds. They had no prayers, and were equally careless of their body and souls. Their lives were spent in an utter insensibility to all good, their language was loaded with blasphemy, and they had no more impression either of the joys or sorrows of a life to come, than the brutes that perish.

On board, were two brothers, who for their amity and brotherly affection were esteemed and loved by all their shipmates. The younger was a slender, delicate, handsome lad, of a fresh complexion, and soft obliging manners. He became very fond of me, and possessed a pious turn of mind. We often read our bible together, and with some

pathetic passages, he would occasionally be wonderfully affected. This raised in me a strong attachment for a youth of such simplicity and ignorance as I myself had once been, I eagerly snatched every leisure moment to instruct him and converse with him on the great concern of our souls.

We were driven by the severe storm we had just weathered, on the western coast of Scotland, and landed at Greenoch, a sea-port town in that quarter, where we meant to refit and take in fresh provision. We had not been two days ashore, when a violent quarrel happened between the two brothers. It was in a hollow, surrounded with a few straggling ash trees, about a mile in the country, where my solitary inclinations had insensibly led me, and where my ears were powerfully assailed by a shriek of extreme distress! I started, and turning round, beheld the elder in the very act of murdering his younger brother. I rushed

rushed upon him with a violence few men would have been able to resist, and without speaking a word wrested from him a dagger reeking with the blood of his brother! I extended my arm, and was on the point of plunging the weapon in the aggressor's bosom, but, for a sudden impulse, which came across me, that he might have some dreadful guilt, on the part of his brother, to alledge in his own behalf, as an apology for this rash and barbarous action:

What has provoked thee, Catiff, cried I sternly, to stab the young man? He then very submissively requested me to spare his life, and he would explain to me the whole matter: I hastened to examine the bleeding youth, who weltered in his blood, and as it struck me in the agonies of death, I was however happily mistaken, the wound was far from mortal, it had only scarified the right side, and before I attended to the merits of the dispute, we had a surgeon who
dressed

ressed him on the spot. We next had him moved, and he lodged with his surgeon until able to come abroad.

These brothers went by the name of the Oswald's, and I was soon informed that the offence was given by my favourite, who had resented his brother's attention to a woman, in very abusive and irritating language. From his mild and gentle nature, this seemed to me very unaccountable. He did not however deny the fact, but reddened in my apprehension as he avowed it.

The surgeon, as I was leaving the invalid, beckoned to me, and with a mighty comical face, asked me what sort of a patient I had committed to his care? The question rather startled me, and he jocosely observed, we tars had a very curious way of accommodating ourselves at sea with pretty girls. This was plain language, and yet I did not understand him. Then, said he, in the person of this young Oswald, you have brought to
my

my house a beautiful young lady, who has been wearing the coarse dress of an ordinary sailor, and no doubt serving the crew as a servant of all work, during the voyage. My wife has but this moment made the discovery, and the gentleman does not in the least suspect we know his real sex. No incident in my whole life, surprized me more than this, though a thousand things instantly rushed on my recollection, which confirmed it; every one now joined me in bringing the affair to a full eclaircissement. We accordingly had the man, whose murder of his fellow I so providentially defeated, brought under immediate examination. His shyness or fear, had hitherto kept him so much aloof, that he knew nothing about the present state of the patient, and seemed considerably alarmed on the supposition of being taken up for his murder.

Availing

Availing ourselves of this apprehension, we urged him to tell us what he knew of his late companion explicitly, and, as he hoped for mercy, to conceal nothing of their connection, from the beginning. His answer seemed honest enough, but was not satisfactory.

He knew nothing further about him, as he observed, but that he was an obliging lad, and always very willing and alert to take his share in whatever was going forward in the ship. He thought him somewhat a favourite of the captain, who had directed him to inform him of every thing a sailor should know. This was the only band of their mutual attachment. Latterly the lad had grown so very cross and peevish, he could not tell what had come to him. They had been ashore, but a very short while, when he picked a quarrel with him about a wench. "Walking a little way out of town together, to see the
" country,

“country,” said Oswald, “he began anew,
“to upbraid me with what he called my
“rudeness and profligacy, saying it was
“unmanly and base, to be so licentious and
“worthless. His words vexed and stung
“me so much to the heart, that I could
“not bear them, and flew upon him in a
“rage, when David rushed like a lion to
“his rescue, and threw me down. Nor
“did I know but the wound received in
“the scuffle, had been fatal, though I
“seriously protest, I would rather have
“killed myself, than a young man I
“loved so well.”

He was then asked whether aboard-a-ship, and among the crew, the sex of the youth had ever been doubted, or called in question. This seemed in some degree to disconcert him, but though he believed no one thought the young man a hero, as few had ever took him for a girl. Understanding however, that he was yet alive, and that his own life was in no hazard, he
took

took himself away with a light heart, and felt no further solicitude about the sex of the patient.

None but myself, the surgeon, and his family were yet in the secret. The captain who had gone ashore, on some particular business, the moment we cast anchor, had not yet returned, and knew nothing of what happened. He had just now however seen the man who left us, and heard enough to induce him to ask after the youth, to whom the surgeon did not now introduce him, but engaged him to dinner next day, and besought his leave from such pretences, as he thought proper to invent, that I should be of the party.

Mean while the patient had recovered so rapidly, as to lay aside her disguise. Her luggage was brought ashore, and though it seemed only a bundle of rags, contained a considerable sum of money, by which she suddenly procured such a dress, as gave her

a very

a very different appearance from what she derived from the habiliments of a common tar.

She looked so very handsome and elegant, that I could scarcely believe my eyes, that she was the same person. We were, of course, all very solicitous to know somewhat of her history, and what had induced her to engage herself in so strange an adventure. It was with a sensible reluctance she yielded to our request, and trusted we would excuse her brevity, as she hardly knew how to mention failings which she could never recollect without a degree of compunction and shame.

Her father was still a reputable merchant in one of the largest trading towns in England. She had been crossed in love, but found means many months ago, to elope with her lover, who was a sailor, and the son of a wealthy neighbour. They had known and been mutually attached

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from

from infancy, and he was disliked by her family, only because an inveterate aversion of an old standing, had been entertained against his. They agreed however to prefer their own inclinations, to the prejudices of their respective parents, and as he had a ship of his own, and was engaged in a voyage of consequence, she consented to embark with him in a sailor's dress. Though charmed by the novelty of her situation, and the kind assiduities of her lover, her heart often smote her for the dereliction of her parents and her country, and the very disgusting scenes of which she could not help being a spectator. The captain was an humane elegant young man, and not much calculated to keep his crew in order. This occasioned frequent riots and mutinies, in which she proved herself eminently serviceable by her influence and ascendancy, in conciliating these boisterous spirits, and reasoning them into their

their senses. She was often however much frightened at the ferocity and extreme outrage which frequently prevailed in these tumultuous scenes. On all other occasions the crew regarded her as the captain's friend, who had entered on the voyage rather to indulge curiosity than acquire the requisites of a seaman. In that capacity she was deferred to in all their individual disputes, and generally had the good fortune, to reconcile such as were at variance. Her cabin was next to the captain's, and having little to do aboard, she but seldom appeared on deck. Her amusement and business consisted in reading and writing, for which she had abundant leisure, and except, when alarmed by ill weather, or the ill humour of the men, she could always find herself enough of employ.

This tranquillity was soon interrupted. A vessel very superior to that in which she was, both in size and number of men, one morning

morning hove in sight, and proved on nearer inspection to be a privateer, who had long infested the coast of Barbary, and filled the whole trade in these parts with apprehension and terror. It was a maxim with these freebooters, never to attack a ship of superior force, yield to an inferior one, or give any quarter where their arms prevailed. Though the English on this occasion, were conscious of great inferiority, and though the captain, aware of his friend's extreme sensibility, would have gladly avoided an action in such circumstances, the temper of the crew, and the situation of the ship, rendered it indispensable. The onset on both sides was furious, but the heathens soon overpowered the christians, and while she kept trembling in her cabin, more dead than alive, she perceived the captain (her lover) in the hands of the barbarians, who were about to destroy him. This awful spectacle so perfectly overpowered

overpowered her, that she dropped down in a swoon, and continued so long insensible, that she never knew what was going forward, till she found herself aboard the enemy, among a group of fierce looking ruffians, whom she expected every moment to dispatch her. Fortunately they were all perfect strangers to the English language, otherwise they must have detected her, as in the bitterness of her anguish, in bewailing the fate of her lover, she occasionally betrayed herself. Nor could she ever afterwards learn what became of the vessel, or one of the crew. No words can describe what she suffered in this cruel condition. But whether these villains regarded her insignificance with contempt, or her sorrows which certainly were obvious enough, with pity, she knew not, but in a few days she was enlarged, and enjoyed as much liberty as any one aboard. From that time her usage became gentler and gentler

every day, though she shrewdly suspected they would sell her for a slave, at the first market they could reach. But as they touched at a place, with the inhabitants of which they seemed perfectly familiar; a stranger came aboard one day, whose features struck her at first sight, as those of an old acquaintance. In a moment he came close up with her, and she had so full a view of him, that she could not be mistaken. He had been an apprentice to her father, and left the country while she was only a girl. The recollection was almost too much for her, and while she endeavoured to compose herself, he was suddenly left to walk the deck, without his companion. This she thought a favourable opportunity, and embraced it to accost him in English. She amused him with the best accounts she could feign of who she was, but interested him so much in her favour, that he obtained the liberty of taking

taking her ashore. Here she made him sensible that she was a person who could afford to be ransomed. By using her father's name, and the names of many persons of respectability known to him, he was induced to procure her freedom. And the only difficulty now was, by what means she could most safely return. While they were busied in arranging this matter, the vessel ordered by Government for receiving the English slaves just ransomed, arrived. It was immediately settled her at own suggestion, that her best way of getting back to Britain, was in the garb and profession of a sailor. Her agent who had done her so much kindness, used his influence with the captain for her accommodation and good usage. And such was the part the captain had acted that she was certain her friends would not suffer his kindness to go unrewarded. He had not only allowed her to mess with himself for the most part,
Lilmo3 but

but selected as her guardian and tutor, one of the most staid and sober men aboard, to whose care and civility she found herself much indebted. And the late assault she suffered from him, she owned had been occasioned by her irritability at the freedom he was guilty of, with low women, and the coarse sarcasms he threw out against her for not doing as he did. But she thought him an honest fellow notwithstanding, and heartily forgave him. There was still another passenger whom she had not mentioned, to whose attentions, her obligations could not be repayed by any earthly compensation. She then pointed to me, and acknowledged she had not known any thing like comfort or ease of mind for many a day, till she met with me, and joined me in the perusal of the bible. It was only in that book and by my humble means, that she saw her true picture, and found where her best interest lay. Never before
could

could she reconcile herself to the dreadful series of disasters she experienced, to the infatuation which led her away from her father's house, and her native land, while so perfectly unprepared for such an adventure, to the loss of the only man in the world, for whom she had ever entertained the least affection, and to the goodness of divine providence, in circumstances so hostile, to every species of desirable indulgence. From the lessons of scripture, however, as explained and illustrated by me, she was at length fully convinced that all had occurred for the best, that in her sufferings much benefit was intended, that many particulars of a merciful complexion, which happened during her naval expedition often came across her mind, and left on it the deepest impressions of gratitude and wonder. Amidst the most imminent danger her worthless life had hitherto escaped; and her spirits, which she never dreamt

dreamt could have carried her through such fatigue, had been thus strangely supported. The most surprizing and pleasing circumstance of all to her, was, that notwithstanding the varied rudeness and brutality to which she was inevitably exposed, her innocence was never once assaulted, and that she once more put her feet on British ground, in the same immaculate state in which she left it. All this she piously ascribed to the preventing grace of God, which she emphatically adored.

When the captain made his appearance, he literally authenticated whatever in her story related to him; and seemed only very much both pleased and surprized she was not discovered aboard. The Barbary merchant, who had originally devolved the care of her home on him, requested him to use her delicately, as she was slender in make, and of respectable relations. And this engagement he endeavoured to fulfil

fulfil as well as he could. He gave her in charge to old Oswald, his first mate, in whose honesty he put the greatest confidence, and for the more security had them go in the ship as brothers, and by the same name.

My mind in the mean time was in great agitation, and conceived unutterable things. Miss Harvey, for that was her name, seemed to me as an angel, and what she told of herself, disclosed such a series of providences, as were in my apprehension perfectly miraculous. It was now plain why she had appeared always so melancholy, and now preferred the mourning suit of a widow. She had tolerably recovered of her grief, however, but there was still a langour remaining about her, that indicated want of tranquillity. She very earnestly besought me to accompany her to her father's house, in preference to the captain, who had actually offered

Benjamin

offered her his services for that purpose. And it suited his convenience better, as he could not so properly have left his ship. We now therefore parted with him in hopes of his calling on her the moment he could get round to Liverpool, where he was bound.

Miss Harvey, who had my whole history, as here detailed, completely by heart, insisted on our stopping at the first market town, and providing me with a dress proper for my introducing her to her father. The Barbary merchant had provided her with plenty of money, which she said should be punctually remitted the moment she got home. Her own fortune she told me was handsome, and wholly at her own disposal, independent of her father, whose only daughter she was, and whose affairs she left in a flourishing condition. It was agreed when we arrived at Bristol, for me to leave her
at

at the tavern, where the chaise put up, and wait on her father, to sound him concerning her.

Alas! the good old man had broken his heart, in lamenting the fate of his daughter, who, it was here understood, had perished with the young man, in whose company she went to sea. Her mother was however alive, in good health, in mourning, and the resemblance between her and her daughter, struck me exceedingly. She startled to hear of her daughter, and suddenly dropped on the floor. A female relation who was present, soon brought her to herself, and when her spirits were somewhat calmed, she enquired eagerly, when, where, and in what condition she could see her. We endeavoured all we could to restrain her impatience. She invited me to dine, and this was about two o'clock in the afternoon. I meant to have brought Miss Harvey in my hand, but she had fol-

O lowed

lowed me, and was all the while in an adjoining room. Not aware of this circumstance, I detained her mother and her friend, with the particulars of the story above related, more than enough, when she fainted away from mere sensibility, as the servants had officiously discovered to her the true state of the family. The bustle this occasioned, instantly brought us altogether, and saved a world of explanation and etiquette. The mother and daughter rushed into one another's arms, and never was an embrace so affecting. It was a long time before they could speak. We deemed it adviseable to retire. And from this lady, a near relation of the family, I learned that Miss Harvey was now one of the richest heiress in the country; that her father had left his immense fortune to her, and in the event that she never was heard of more, to her mother, and wholly at her disposal. Upon re-joining the ladies, we found them tolerably

bly recovered, and were highly charmed by their mutual affection, the one full of regret for what had past, and the other in raptures for having found her long lost child. They entreated me to spend some time with them, but poor Miss Harvey had no pleasure in renewing any of her old connections. The flutter she felt from the diversity of the objects, which had passed before her, with so much rapidity, and in such an uncouth shape, diverted her mind, from dwelling intently on the loss of her lover. But this tender concern now took full possession of her heart. Her sole delight was in reading her bible, and preparing for meeting her lover in the realms of immortality. She courted solitude, and though but just of age, and exquisitely beautiful, denied herself all the indulgence of her sex and years. In this manner she evidently pined and soon began to waste. Her fine blue eyes became languid, and

after drooping a few weeks, was suddenly carried off in a fever. Just before she expired, she called her mother and me to her bedside, and addressed herself to us in these memorable words:—

“ I am just a dying, and my poor
“ heart is now at peace. To you, Da-
“ vid, I am much indebted, for teaching
“ me how to die well, and deliver into
“ your hands an instrument, that will in-
“ deed ill requite you for what you have
“ done for me, but may convince you of
“ my affectionate gratitude. Oh! mother,
“ keep fast by that man. His experience
“ and piety will reconcile you to all your
“ misfortunes, and aid you in securing
“ an interest in the treasures of eternity,
“ where you will both soon follow me,
“ my father, and my dear William.”

She said no more, her mother was inconsolable, and though the deceased had bequeathed me a noble independence, I felt no inclination to leave the good Mrs. Harvey,

Harvey, who continued to treat me with all possible tenderness. After several months had passed, she one day took me aside, and told me she confided in my good sense and prudence, in what she had to say.

“ Miss Harvey conceived for you, she
 “ said, a strong partiality, and could she
 “ have got the better of her illness, and
 “ brought her mind to a second attach-
 “ ment, you must have been her choice.
 “ But this she uniformly thought impos-
 “ sible, and even urged me to accept of
 “ you as an husband, knowing me not
 “ very much to exceed you in years, and
 “ thinking your obligations to the family,
 “ might render such a match not ineligi-
 “ ble to you. Do not mistake me David,
 “ you certainly have seen nothing in my
 “ conduct, indicating any such inclina-
 “ tion. With all connections of this
 “ sort, it becomes me for ever to have
 “ done. And yet to retain you near me

“and in our family, for her sake who is
“gone, as well as our own, is an object
“which I confess I have much at heart.
“What think you of Miss Hart. She is
“a serious well inclined girl, and is fin-
“cerely fond of you.”

Madam, said I, say no more, I have frequently wished it might be possible to bring matters to this issue, for to leave you, would break my heart, and to be in a capacity of serving you, by every effort in my power, is all the blessing I desire on earth. It were enough that Miss Hart is your relation to make me love her, and her own good qualities makes it impossible for almost any man to view her with indifference. But let me beseech you to believe her accession of fortune, by Miss Harvey's decease, has no influence on my affection.

The old lady said not another word, but forthwith led me to Miss Hart, who was at work by herself, in the next room, and
taking

taking her by the hand, put it in mine.

“ God bless you, my children, said she,

“ only permit me to continue in your

“ society, and be your mother for the

“ few years allotted me in this world.”

As the whole arrangement had been previously settled between them, Miss Hart immediately fell on her knees with me, and we both very sincerely thanked her for all we had, and hoped from the mutual indulgence of each other, and earnestly prayed we might all live and die together.

In this society, enlarged by a select circle of worthy people, we now make shift to be as happy as the earth can render us. We have received of providence, a few pledges of our mutual affection, and our primary business and pleasure, is to superintend their education. Our secondary concern is to occupy ourselves in labours of love. We have the means, and the Almighty hath given us an heart, to communicate

communicate liberally of his bounty. All we have is but his gift, and for the use of it, we deem ourselves strictly responsible. In our habitual offices of humanity, the good Mrs. Harvey is a cordial and constant associate, and superintends the execution of all our charitable plans, with the sagacity and dexterity of an old and able practitioner.

Such are the sentiments and aptitudes also in which we rear our young ones, and there cannot be a more engaging sight under the canopy of heaven, than these little endearing creatures, making up to all they perceive in want, anxiously enquiring into whatever distresses them, and as solicitously in search for the abodes of human misery, as others are after the nests of birds, that our guilty propensities may even implicate them innocent, as they are in one common calamity with us.

Good bye David

FINIS.



